

No. 147.—vol. vi.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1876.

REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

PRICE SIXPENCE By Post 6½D.



MADAME HEBERT,
Du Théâtre Français, London, as Christine, in "Le Roman d'un Jeune Homme Pauvre."

RAILWAYS.

BROMLEY AND BICKLEY STEEPLE-CHASES, DECEMBER 12th and 13th.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

SPECIAL TRAINS TO CHISLEHURST from Charing-cross, Water-loo, Cannon-street, London-bridge. Also, a SPECIAL FAST TRAIN (First-class only), leaving at 12 noon, calling at Cannon-street only at

12.5 p.m.
Lickets available for the day of issue only, and by the Special Trains.
For further particulars see bills.

JOHN SHAW, Manager and Secretary.

POMBAY.—ANCHOR LINE.—Direct for the trade. Qualified surgeons and stewardesses carried.

From Glasgow. From Liverpool. Saturday, Dec. 16...... Saturday, December 23.

MACEDONIA Saturday, Dec. 10......... Saturday, Jecember 23.

MACEDONIA Saturday, Dec. 30........ Saturday, January 6.

TRINACRIA Saturday, Jan. 27....... Saturday, February 3.

First-class, 50 guineas. Sail punctually as advertised. Apply for berths or handbooks to Henderson Brothers, Union-street, Glasgow, and 17, Water-street, Liverpool; J. W. Jones, Chapel-walk, Manchester; Grindlay and Co., 55, Parliament-street, S.W.; and Henderson Brothers, 19, Leadenball-street, E.C.

T H E G L A C I A R I U M. THE OLD CLOCK HOUSE,

379, KING'S-ROAD, CHELSEA, S.W.

The large Rink now completed and permanently frozen over, is open for

Admission—by Visitor's vouchers only—which, together with the club rules and other particulars, can be obtained upon application by letter to he Secretary,

April 25, 1876.

MARAVILLA COCOA FOR BREAKFAST.

"It may justly be called the Perfection of Prepared Cocoa,"—British Medical Press.
"Entire solubility, a delicate aroma, and a rare concentration of the purest elements of nutrition, distinguish the MARAVILLA COCOA above all others."—Globe.
Sold in tin-lined packets only by Grocers.TAYLOR BROTHERS, London, Sole Proprietors.

HARRINGTON E. O'REILLY.

ANGHAM HALL, MRS. WELDON'S
ORPHANAGE. Monday Evening, December 11, 8 p.m. Mr.
Thomas Reynolds, Miss Blanche and the Masters Reynolds. Signor
Federica. Mrs. Weldon will sing Two Voices (Hamilton Clarke).—Music
and Art Association, 39, Great Marlborough-street, W.

A BRAHAM'S REQUEST. (CH. GOUNOD.)

SIGNOR FEDERICA will sing this celebrated Sacred Song at MRS. WELDON'S SOCIABLE EVENING, LANGHAM HALL, 11th December. Music and Art Association, 39, Great Marlborough-street, W.

MR. RICHARD W. SOU SOUTH'S

Répertoire:—
"LA GRANDE DUCHESSE." "LA BELLE HELENE."
"LA FILLE DE MADAME ANGOT," "LA PERICHOLE."

Principal Artistes, Madame SELINA DOLARO,

Madame SELI
Miss ALICE BURVILLE,
Miss AMY GRUNDY,
Miss GRUNDY,
Miss FANNY STEWART.
Miss MERCY,

Miss ALICE BURVILLE,
Miss AMY GRUNDY,
Miss GRUNDY,
Miss FANNY STEWART.
Miss FANNY STEWART.
Miss MERCY,
Madame FLORENCE HUNTER.
Messrs. HARRY and FRED PAYNE.

Assirable by

Messrs. HARRY and FRED PAYNE.

Assisted by
Mdlles. HAMILTON and ROSE BECKETT.
Full and Powerful Chorus.

Musical Director, Mr. Ernrest Goossens.
Stage-Manager, Mr. M. Kinghorne.
Property-Master, Mr. C. Skinner.
General Manager, Mr. E. Perrint.
Entirely New and Elegant Costumes designed expressly for this Tour, and executed by Mr. S. May, Bow-street, and Messrs. Lewis and Allenby, of Regent-street.

The Incidental Dances arranged by Messrs. Harry and Fred Payne.
All communications to be addressed to

All communications to be addressed to Mr. R. W. South, 32, Abingdon-street, London, S.W., or Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Nov. 27th, Twelve Nights.

M ISS HEATH'S PROVINCIAL TOUR,
Accompanied by Mr. WILSON BARRETT'S COMPANY,
suspended during Miss Heath's Engagement at the
PRINCESS'S THEATRE, LONDON.
The Company (re-arranged) will travel with "THE SHAUGHRAUN," and appear at GAIETY THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL, Six Nights.

All letters to be addressed to Mr. Wilson Barrett, Princess's Theatre, London.

Acting Manager, Mr. Morris Arons.

F XHIBITION of CABINET PICTURES IN OIL.—Dudley Gallery, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.—The TENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION is OPEN daily from 10 to 5. Admittance is. Catalogue 6d.—R. F. M'NAIR, Secretary.

M DME. TUSSAUD'S EXHIBITION, Baker-STREET. POSTRAIT MODELS of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M. of Freemasons of England, the Emperor and Empress of Russia, Emperor and Empress of Germany, King Alphonso XII., Victor Emmanuel, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Dr. Kenealy, M.P. Costly Court Dresses. The complete line of British Monarchs, and 300 portrait Models of Celebrities, and the late Cardinal Antonelli. Admission, One Shilling. Children under Twelve, Sixpence. Extra Room, Sixpence. Open from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m.

CATTLE SHOW WEEK.

GLEES and CHORUSES by Evans's celebrated Choir of Boys, under the direction of Mr. F. Jonghmans, at intervals during the evening. Lawrence, the double-headed Nondescript, at 10.30. Jonghmans at 11.20. Professor Nelson and Sons, the marvellous trio of Acrobats, at 11.20. McDermott and "The Two Obadiahs" at 12.0. Suppers served till 12.20. Admission, One Shilling. Private Boxes from One Guinea.—Proprietor I. Barnes Amor.

R. AND MRS. GERMAN REED'S
ENTERTAINMENT.—A PUFF OF SMOKE, a musical
duologue by C. J. Rowe. Music by Angelina, in which Miss Fanny Holland
and Mr. Corney Grain will appear. After which, MATCHED AND
MATED, by F. C. Burnand, music by German Reed, Mrs. German Reed,
Miss Fanny Holland, Miss Leonora Braham, Mr. Corney Grain, Mr. A.
E. Bishop, and Mr. Alfred Reed. To conclude with OUR TABLE
D'HOTE, by Mr. Corney Grain. Every evening, evcept Thursday and
Saturday, at 8. Morning Representations. Every Thursday and Saturday, at 3. Admission, 18., 28.; Stalls, 3s. and 5s. Can be secured in advance, without fee, St. George's Hall, Langham Place, Oxford Circus.

THEATRES.

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.—
On Monday, Wednesday and Friday, MACBETH. Macbeth, Mr. Barry Sullivan. On Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at 7.45, RICHARD III. Richard III., Mr. Barry Sullivan. Messrs. H. Sinclair, J. F. Cathcart, C. Vandenhooff, F. W. Irish, H. Pyatt. F. Tyars, H. Russell, J. Johnstone, R. Dolman, C. H. Fenton; Mrs. Hermann Vezin, Mesdames Fanny Huddart, E. Stuart, E. Collins, H. Coveney, C. Jecks and Miss and Master Grattan. Preceded by, at 7, THAT BEAUTIFUL BICEPS. To conclude with THE STORM FIEND. Box-office open from Ten till Five daily.

After which, at a Quarter to Eight, a New and Original Historical Play, entitled JANE SHORE, written by W. G. Wills: Messrs. James Fernandez, J. W. Ford, B. Bentley, A. Revelle, F. Strickland, J. Smyth, B. Pedley, G. Weston, E. Price, Miss Heath, Mesdames A. Mellon, Manders, M. Brunett, Miss and Master Coote. To conclude with at 10.15, a Comic Ballet entitled THE MAGIC FLUTE. Prices, 6d. to £3 3s. Doors open at Half-past Six; commence at Seven. Box-office open from Tentill Five daily. O OYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

ROYAL ADELPHI THEATRE.—
SHAUGHRAUN, Messrs, C. Sullivan, S. Emery, W. Terriss, Britan Wright, W. M'Intyre, J. G. Shore, H. Vaughan, and Mesdames Rose Coghlan, Hudspeth, Taylor, C. Nott, E. Phillips, &c. Box-office open from Ten till Five daily.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.—

Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. B. Buckstone.

Every Evening, at 7.30, the Comic Drama, A ROUGH DIAMOND,
Mr. Buckstone as Cousin Joe; Margery, Miss Lafontaine. After which,
at 8.30, DAN'L DRUCE, 84th time. Characters by Messrs. Hermann
Vezin, Howe, Braid, Forbes Robertson, Odell, &c., and Miss Marion
Terry. Conclude with BIRDS IN THEIR LITTLE NESTS AGREE.
Messrs. Kyrle, Gordon. Mesdames M. Harris, K. Irwin, Osborne, and
E. Dietz. Doors open at 7. Carriages at 11. Box-office open 10 till 5.

CAIETY THEATRE, STRAND.—Sole

Lessee and Manager, Mr. JOHN HOLLINGSHEAD.—Return
of Mr. 10OLE.—First Nights of Albery's new Piece, THE MAN IN
POSSESSION, and revival of SPELLING BEE. Open 7.0, begin 7.15.
AFTERNOON PERFORMANCES Every Saturday (see Daily Papers).

FOLLY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manathe entire company in Farnic's new burlesque. The very latest edition of ROBINSON CRUSOE, on Monday and every evening until further notice. The performance will commence at 7,30 with the Two-Act Comedy, by A. Halliday, of CHECK MATE. At 8,40 the very latest edition of ROBINSON CRUSOE, by Farnic. Both Pieces supported with the entire strength of the Company. Musical Director, Mr. Michael Connelly. Acting Manager, Mr. J. C. Scanlan.

FOLLY THEATRE.—Special Notice.—Owing to the enormous success that nightly attends the performance of ROBINSON CRUSOE, and the overflowing audiences who testify to the admirable manner in which the burlesque is acted, with its brilliant mounting, and charming music, the management beg to announce that the burlesque will be continued until further notice, and that many new additions and improvements will be made in the text and music for Christmas. Special Morning Performances will be given as follows:—Tuesday, 26th December (Boxing Day), Two o'clock; Saturday, 36th December, Two o'clock; Saturday, 6th January, Two o'clock. LITTLE DICK WHITTINGTON, by Reece, in rehearsal, and will be produced with brilliant effects upon the withdrawal of Robinson Crusoe.

RITERION THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alex. Henderson. Immense success of the NEW COMEDY. Charles Wyndham, and the entire company much augmented. On Monday, and every evening during the week, the performance will commence at 7.30 with THE WALL OF CHINA; at 8, A TALE OF A TUB. Followed at 8,45 by a farcical Comedy, in three acts, entitled, HOT WATER, from Meilhac and Halévy. Characters by Messrs. Charles Wyndham, E. Righton, J. B. Rae, H. Standing, J. Clarke, H. Ashley. Mesdames Fanny Josephs, Nelly Bromley, Eastlake, M. Davis, Edith Bruce, M. Holme. Acting Manager, Mr. H. J. Hitchins.

Lessee and Manager, MRS. JOHN WOOD.—Miss Lydia Foote, Mr. George Honey, Mr. C. Warner, and Mrs. John Wood, with the entire Company much augmented, in Dion Boucicault's Comedy of LONDON ASSURANCE, every evening. Owing to the enormous success attending the performance of NILSSON OR NOTHING, with Mrs. John Wood and Mr. George Honey, it will be repeated nightly until further notice. On MONDAY, and every evening during the week, will be presented at 7.30, LONDON ASSURANCE. Characters by Messrs. C. Warner, W. H. Stephens, C. Cooper, F. Mervin, R. Markby, Benbrook, G. Darrell, Bauer, and Mr. George Honey. Mesdames Lydia Foote, Telbin, and Mrs. John Wood. To conclude with, at 10.30, NILSSON OR NOTHING. Jenny Leatherlungs, Mrs. John Wood, in which character she will give her celebrated imitations of Opera Singers, and her inimitable song HIS HEART WAS TRUE TO POLL. Granby Gag, Mr. George Honey.—Box office open from to till 5. Doors open at 7.

POYAL STRAND THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Swanborough.—On MONDAY, and Every Evening, at 7, KEEP YOUR TEMPER.—At 8, Comedy, CREMORNE. Messrs. Vernon, Cox, Taylor, &c.; Mesdames Venne, Turner, &c.—Conclude with the Burlesque DAN'L TRA-DUCED, TINKER. Messrs. Marius, Cox, Taylor, &c.; Mesdames Venne, Jones, &c.

WAUDEVILLE THEATRE.—Lessees
Messrs. D. James and T. Thorne. Enormous success of OUR
BOYS. Every Evening, at 7.30, A WHIRLIGIG; at 8, the most
successful comedy, OUR BOYS, written by H. J. Byron. Concluding
with A FEARFUL FOG; supported by Messrs. William Farren, David
James, C. W. Garthorne, J. P. Bernard, W. Lestocq, A. Austin and
Thomas Thorne. Mesdames Amy Roselle, Kate Bishop, Nellie Walters,
Cicely Richards, Sophie Larkin, &c. Free List entirely suspended. Acting
Manager, Mr. D. McKay. N.B.—Saturday morning, Dec. 16, Annual
Benefit of Mr. D. McKay.

L AST SIX NIGHTS OF NO THOROUGH-RIFLE TEAM in SI SLOCUM. On Monday, December 18th. ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

LOBE THEATRE.—HUNTED DOWN Doors open at 6.30. Farce at 7. HUNTED DOWN, drama in three acts, by Dion Boucicault, at 7.45. Enthusiastic calls after each act. Comic opera in one act, by Hay and Solomon. A WILL WITH A VENGEANCE at 0.45. Nearly every number of music encored.—Acting Manager, Mr. Douglas Cox.

DOYAL COURT THEATRE. - Mr. Hare Lessee and Manager.—On Saturday, punctually at Eight o'clock, NEW MEN AND OLD ACRES, written by Tom Taylor and A. W. Dubourg. The principal characters will be acted by Miss Ellen Terry, Mrs. Gaston Murray, Mrs. Stephens, Miss Kate Aubrey; Mr. Kelly, Mr. Anson, Mr. Conway, Mr. Erser Jones, and Mr. Hare. The new scenery painted by Messrs. Gordon and Harford.—Doors open at 7.30. Box-office hours 11 to 5.—Acting-Manager, Mr. John Huy.

DUKE'S THEATRE, HOLBORN.—Every Evening, at Eight, BROEKMAN'S CIRCUS and Great MONKEY PERFORMANCE, from the Alexandra Palace. The Performance takes place on the Stage. Doors open at 7.30; commence at Eight. Private Boxes, from 10s. 6d.; Orchestra Stalls, 4s.; Dress Circle, 3s.; Boxes, 2s.; Pit, 1s.; Gallery, 6d. Children Half-price to all parts except Gallery. MORNING PERFORMANCES every WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY.

THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S GARDENS, Regent's Park, are OPEN daily (except Sunday). Admission 1s.; on Monday, 6d; Children always 6d. Amongst the most recent additions are three American Darters, and two Esquimaux Dogs from Whale Sound, presented by Captain Allen Young, of the Pandora. The Elephant House contains Five Rhinoceroses and Six Elephants.

SANGER'S GRAND NATIONAL AMPHI-THEATRE, Westminster Bridge Road.

LAST WEEK BUT ONE OF "WATERLOO."

Notwithstanding the tremendous success of this great spectacular drama, it must positively be withdrawn on Saturday, the 10th inst., to enable the Messrs. Sanger to make preparations for the production of their greatest Pantomime. Great change in the circus programme. Time and prices as usual. Two Last Morning Performances on December 9 and 16. Boxoffice open daily.

ATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE, Bishopsgate. Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. John and Richard Douglass.—Last Nights of Miss Jennie Lee as JO, supported by the entire Globe Theatre Company, original effects; Monday, Dec. 11, and following days at 7.0, JO. Adapted from Charles Dickens! "Bleak House." Miss Jennie Lee in her original character, JO. Conclude with the Farce, THE TAILOR MAKES THE MAN.—Box office open 11.0 till 4.0. No charge for Booking.—OPEN SESAME, Boxing Day, Dec. 26th.

TENGLER'S GRAND CIRQUE, Argyll-Street, Oxford-circus.—OPENING NIGHT of the Season, THIS EVENING (Saturday). The talented artists will give a SERIES of the most complete and brilliant EQUESTRIAN and GYMNASTIC ENTERTAINMENTS. The beautiful Horses and Fairy Ponies: the eccentric Clowns in a grand Olio of pleasing scenes at every performance.—Open at 7, commencing at 7,30.—Proprietor and director, Mr. Charles Hengler.

HENGLER'S GRAND CIRQUE.—Illuminated Day Performances every Wednesday and Saturday. The first of the season on Wednesday Dec. 6th.—Open at 2, commence at 2,30—Prices as., 3s., 2s., and 1s.; Children, under 10, half-price; Private Boxes, 30s. Places may be secured at Mitchell's, Old Bond-street; Bubb's, New Bond-street; Hay's, City Box-office; and at the Cirque, from 10 till 4. Carriages may be ordered for the Evening performance at 10,20, and Morning at 4.15.—Proprietor and Director, Mr. Charles Hengler.

ROYAL GRECIAN THEATRE, City-road.—
Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Conquest.
NOTICE.—MR. GEORGE CONQUEST will appear only at his own Theatre next Christmas, and will give Morning Performances of the Pantomime every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Last Six Nights of the Season. In consequence of the great preparation for the production of the Pantomime, the Theatre will be closed after next week, until Saturday, the 23rd, when will be produced the Grand Christmas Pantomime. Dancing in the New Hall. On MONDAY, and Every Evening during the week at 7, the powerful Drama entitled, THE BLACR DOCTOR. Messrs, W. James, Sennett, Syms, Gillett, Nicholls, Vincent, Grant, Inch, &c.: Misses E. Miller, Victor, Denvil, &c. To conclude with THERESE; OR, THE ORPHAN OF GENEVA.—Acting Manager, Mr. Alphonse Roques.

BRITANNIA THEATRE, HOXTON.—Sole THEATRE, HUXTUN.—Sole

Deported to the state of the state

MISS ADA CAVENDISH, Theatre Royal,

FOR AULD LANG SYNE" IS THE TITLE OF THE

CHRISTMAS NUMBER

ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS.

It will contain Forty Pages of Pictures, Tales, Poems, &c., in a PRICE is.] Coloured Wrapper, [PRICE is.

Designed by MOYR SMITH and J. PETHERICK.

WITH THIS NUMBER WILL BE

GIVEN AWAY!

A fac-simile copy in Colours, Printed by Leighton Brothers, of a Picture by G. A. HOLMES (Painter of "CAN'T YOU TALK?") entitled

"YOU REALLY MUST!"

Amongst the Illustrations of this specially attractive number, will be found the following:—

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After H. S. MARKS, A.R.A.
A FIRESIDE PARTY.
After SIR EDWIN LANDSEER.

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Amongst the Literary Contributions will be found :-

Amongst the Literary Contributions will be found:—
THE LAST OF OUR FAMILY GHOST.
By the late R. B. WORMALD.
PUFF—The Experiences of a
Lunatic Manager.
By HOWARD PAUL.
"LYNCH" FOR "LYNCH."

THE SACK.
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By ARTHUR MATHISON, Author of "The Little Hero," &c. MY CHEQUE BOOK. By HENRY HERSEE. ULFAR OF THE FROZEN

HAND.

By GODFREY TURNER.
A GHOST AT THE CLUB.

By A. H. WALL.
THAT TERRIBLE TRA-

THAT TERRIBLE TRAGEDIAN.
By BYRON WEBBER.
A LIVELY LUNATIC.
By H. SAVILE CLARKE.
AN UNSOLVED MYSTERY.
By HARRIET FISHER.
By GERALD MASSEY.
MRS. BROWN'S FIRST
PANTOMIME.
By ARTHUR SKETCHLEY.
ESCAPE FROM THE
JAWS OF DEATH.
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THE RESPECTABLE SEA-FARING MAN.
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and THE CHRISTMAS
TREE. By GERALD MASSEY.

Together with other Stories and Poems by high class writers.

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OFFICE, 143, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

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TURFIANA.

THE "scratching" season seems to have set in with its accustomed severity, and the *Sporting Life* has some very pungent and outspoken remarks, which we most thoroughly endorse, upon the tomed severity, and the Sporting Life has some very pungent and outspoken remarks, which we most thoroughly endorse, upon the subject, and it is high time that sporting writers and instructors of the public should denounce these practices with all the powers of their pen. It is only among the pettifogging divisions that such practices really obtain, although there may be a Fraulein scandal now and then among owners of a higher social grade. The cases of Whitebait, Palm, and Shifnal, following close upon each other, have naturally stirred up public indignation, and we unhesitatingly assert that to bring a virtually scratched horse to the scene of action, and to parade him in the paddock, is only an elaborate variety of picking pockets, and the perpetrators of such villany deserve to be warned off every course in the kingdom. What is the good of this eleventh-hour scratching, with all its attendant consequences of irritating unhappy backers, and loss of reputation on the part of its perpetrators? We do not hesitate to say that, in nine cases out of ten, it is an act on the part of owners like cutting off the nose to spite the face, for a certain section of backers are perpetually on the look-out for the horse, like a cat for a mouse, and the chances are that what is called a fair price can never be obtained by the "right parties." As there is a fine for taking down a number already hoisted, owners of horses ostentationally paraded in the enclosure, and then withdrawn, should be well taked in a double penalty and then we should have less of taking down a number already hoisted, owners of horses ostentatiously paraded in the enclosure, and then withdrawn, should be mulcted in a double penalty, and then we should have less of these gay deceivers, who make the word of promise to the eye, and break it to the hope. Another intolerable drawback is the "objection" nuisance, which has been so greatly developed of late years as to render it a subject as well worthy of "study" as handicans themselves. There is indeed a division who might be made and the might be made a division who might be made and the might be made as the might be made as the might be made and the might be might b handicaps themselves. There is indeed a division who might appropriately be termed "professional objectors," and they have brought that means of livelihood to a very pretty pitch of per-

From the advertisements of sales of Sir John Astley's horses, From the advertisements of sales of Sir John Astley's horses, both in his training stable at Newmarket and in the paddocks at Elsham, it would appear as if we were really about to lose the straw jacket, and that the Lincolnshire baronet's yearlings will no longer be a feature of the Doncaster sales. We trust his secession from the Turf may only be a temporary one; but his breeding stud could never have been much of a success, and we have to read that he has fixed of it. No horse has had chance breeding stud could never have been much of a success, and we do not wonder that he has tired of it. No horse has had chances superior to those of Broomielaw, or with more disappointing results, considering his fine blood and more than respectable credentials as a racer. Trent was probably the best of his get, and he was about the same class as his sire, who was never more than "half a good one." Sires for the forthcoming season are now crowding into the front sheet of the Calendar, and among the latest additions we observe the Finstall horses, Cardinal York and Paul Iones. Considering that the first of his stock were and Paul Jones. Considering that the first of his stock were rather undersized, as is often the case with young stallions, the Cardinal has not done amiss, and we shall be surprised if he belies his good breeding and excellent performances, both over long and short courses. There is not too much of him, perhaps, but one of our highest authorities has always held to the opinion that the capability for carrying big weights in good company is the surest test of excellence, and his opinion is entitled to all respect. Mr. Taylor Sharpe advertises Suffolk and Merry Sunshine on very easy terms, and the latter is one of the very likeliest looking easy terms, and the latter is one of the very likeliest looking hunter sires we have ever clapped eyes on, and he should have a good time of it in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. Thunder's destination is at Messrs. Barrow's, Newmarket, where he is to "receive" at 30 guiness, and will no doubt command plenty of patronage, albeit he stands "in his own country." Unlike Stockwell and Melbourne, from which he claims descent, he have to a country of heaviness or coarseness about him, and he has not an atom of heaviness or coarseness about him, and Touchstone mares will suit him to a nicety, a cross too often for-bidden on the score of "kindred and affinity" among the sons

and grandsons of the Emperor.

Mr. Lant issues a lengthy catalogue of yearlings, foals, and brood mares for sale at Albert Gate, next Monday, and it would seem that the cares of a breeder's life are already too much for him, for it is a very short time ago since he commenced operations. Deerswood and Struan are not exactly the sort of sires to head so large a stud, and Lord Rosslyn could make nothing of the former, while the young Blair Athol, though bred in quite the orthodox fashion, lacks both substance and stoutness. The redoubtable Flying Duchess, with a brother or sister to Galopin, in ventre sa mere, is among the matrons doomed to the hammer; and there are others which read really well on paper, though they have not as yet brought forth winners. The appearance of a new volume of the *Stud Book* will be a boon, indeed, to all interested in the future of the Turf, and it would be well if Messrs. Weatherby could be induced to issue it at shorter intervals than four years. That its compilation and correction is an Herculean labour we do not deny, but then the price is a remunerative one, and we should be quite satisfied with a triennial entry. Taking the difficulties of ascertaining the whereabouts and ownership of blood mares into consideration, the *Stud Book* is a marvel of correctness and precision, and it is but seldom that we draw its pages blank while in search of information. Careful revision is, indeed, the soul of Turf handbooks, and it is devoutly to be wished that certain extra-official guides (?) would imitate Burlington-street in this respect. The Grand National Hunt meeting is advertised to be held on Monday next, when Sir John Astley will propose "That no race be of less value than 50 sovs." This is low enough in all conscience, and should have the street of the str bring about no memorials from injured proprietors, if they desire to uphold the character of their meetings. Fewer races and better competitors should be principles instilled into the minds of clerks of courses, who are too apt to spread the butter of added money with too niggardly a hand over programmes of abnormal size, thus reducing their prizes to mere "bread and scrape." Croydon suffered a little by the adoption of this "vaulting Croydon suffered a little by the adoption of this "vaulting ambition" scale; and it would have been easy to compress the business of the two days into one, if good sport and not high gate returns was the object. Jones and his cross-country pupils had a good time of it during the meeting, and "Ould Ireland" once more showed prominently in the Great Metropolitan, though Pride of Kildare's performances in other places prevented backers from following Captain Bates's lead. Lord Rosebery's yearling nomenclature is, as usual, neat and appropriate; and Casuistry sister to Controversy, is an example of his good taste. The Duke of Montrose has evidently determined, if he cannot break the Ring, to break their jaws with Gamsgager, though the colt's former appellation of Zimorodoki was bad enough. A contemporary announces that Petrarch is once more in the sale list; and if this is the case, we take it there will be some hottish competition for is the case, we take it there will be some hottish competition for him as a stud horse, and there can be no doubt that he possesses far higher claims than either Wenlock or Winslow to fill up the gap left by Lord Clifden's death. A better looking horse it would be difficult to find, and we are quite content to forget and forgive the numerous little eccentricities of temper and management, which have been powerless to injure his reputation permanently. Lemnos, another candidate for the honour of sire-ship, is pretty sure to be snapped up before long; and it was to see this horse and Thunder that Mr. Cookson made an autumn pilgrimage to Newmarket have the part to prove the part of the provent of the proven market, having rather set his heart on one of the pair of Thunderbolts. However, both had to give way to Leolinus, a horse not very differently bred to the *quondam* pet of Heath House; and as the big

chestnut was clearly a superior public performer to The Palmer, and is quite as well bred, we do not despair of seeing him "extraditioned" to the foreigners some fine day at a highly remunerative figure. Musket has changed his quarters from Bonehill

to Enfield, where General Peel, Toxophilite, and Brother to Strafford will compose his body guard.

The notorious "Glance" case at Warwick being still sub judice, we shall not allude to it further than to remark that it represents, on a small scale, the famous (or infamous) "Running Rein" case, in which Goody Lewe and Lord Care. in which Goody Levy and Lord George Bentinck played such prominent parts, the one as "faker," and the other as amateur detective. It is a good sign, at any rate, that the Jockey Club have determined to become prosecutors, and we trust that, as in the old play, virtue may be triumphant, and vice descend through a trap-door to the place paved with good intentions. After many seasons of perverse ill luck, it is refreshing to find Mr. "Fog" Rowlands enjoying some of Fortune's favours, and the success which attended him at Croydon sticking to the colours of his protege's at Sandown Park. According to report, that aristocratic resort must be a sort of racing Utopia, for we are told that through the exertions of the executive, backed up by Scotland-yard, a clean sweep was made of the welshing fraternity, who appeared to have had such a day at Warwick, by the kind permission of Mr. Merry. We presume that the same forces are at the beck and call of the Midland C.C. as of the managers at Sandown, and if so, there really is not the shadow of an excuse for allowing "Kings" and other potentates in the principality of Welshers to infest the and other potentates in the principality of Welshers to infest the stands and rings of respectably conducted meetings. The "Great Turf Swindle" as it is called, continues to make way, and will afford food for endless comment during the winter months, when nothing else is stirring. Prices ruled very low at Tattersall's last Monday. Mr. Carew Gibson took the long-backed Lizzie Distin for 300 guineas, while Colonel Maude made another cheap purchase for the Royal Stud, though her blood is none of the stoutest. Spasmodic attempts were made now and again to start betting on the Derby, but we doubt whether the "House" at Albert Gate would be inclined to grant a "quotation" to the small business hitherto transacted. Let us hope for better things with the January entries, over which date speculators must be content to hold, and to "wait" instead of to "labour."

SKYLARK.

DEATH OF MR. R. B. WORMALD.

WE chronicle, with much pain, the somewhat sudden demise of Mr. Robert Wormald. It is nearly twelve years since the present writer and poor dear Wormald discussed in Fleet-street the then nebulous *Sportsman*, upon which journal they had severally been engaged. At that time he was a stalwart fellow, abounding in "go," who looked all his inches (he stood upwards of six feet high), and boasted a physique such as those who have only known him during the past five years would find it difficult to credit him with. Of Mr. Wormald's literary attain-ments and capacity as a journalist it would have been difficult then to have said too much; how much more difficult it is now only those who have enjoyed his friendship for the past decade can say. In the October part of the Westminster Papers there appeared a notice of Mr. Wormald which, albeit it only deals with his career from a chess point of view, furnishes some facts that one is glad to recal—"Mr. Robert B. Wormald is a scion of one of our oldest county families, and was born in the vicinity of York in the year 1834. While yet a schoolboy he evinced remarkable talent for chess, which he first displayed as a problem composer in the columns of the *Illustrated London News* at the early age of fifteen. In 1853 he entered Oxford University, and during his undergraduate career he became associated with Brien, Ranken, undergraduate career he became associated with Brien, Rahken, Wilkinson, Dolby, Valentine Green, and many others whose names are familiar to every reader of the *Old Chess Players' Chronicle*, and whose exploits upon the chequered field had spread the fame of the Hermes Chess Club throughout the entire chess world. Mr. Wormald obtained his degree in 1857, and coming to London adopted the profession of journalist, devoting much of his leisure to practical chess play, and the composition of problems. In 1858 he played a match with the late Mr. Charles of problems. In 1858 he played a match with the late Mr. Charles Kenny, a prominent amateur in those days, winning every game, and in 1859, the only other public match in which he has engaged, was fought with Mr. Campbell, then the rising star of English Chess. This match, which was, perhaps, the most stubbornly contested one on record, no fewer than fourteen drawn games having occurred in it, was won by Mr. Campbell with a score of seven to five. Mr. Wormald's "Chess Openings" was produced in 1862. Its success at once placed him among the first analysts of our time, and the new and enlarged edition of the work produced in 1875 was endorsed with the approval of every work produced in 1875 was endorsed with the approval of every authority on the subject. Since his arrival in London, twenty years ago, Mr. Wormald has been a constant contributor of problems, analyses and games to the newspaper and periodical literature of Chess, and his life-long friendship with the late Mr. Staunton marked him out as the fittest successor to that gentleman in the post he now worthily fills on the staff of the IIlustrated London News. His writings are distinguished by scholarly grace and a modesty of statement in chess analysis, unfortunately somewhat novel to the subject, and his high personal qualities have secured for him the cordial regard of every one that knows him." Not only in "Chess Analysis" but elsewhere, in branches of literature more or less congenial, was the graceful and scholarly pen known. He was a Saturday Reviewer in the days when that once daring weekly hit out from the shoulder without fear or fayour, and we can fancy we now hear him chuckling over the fact that the production of a bundle of receipts for his papers in the *Saturday* had once obtained for him the exalted position of London correspondent of a New York journal! When Messrs. Saunders and Otley—unwisely, perhaps—put away the *Oriental* and established in its stead the *Literary Budget* (one of the most brilliant journals that ever existed), Wormald was amongst its contributors. He also wrote for the *Imperial Review* during its brief existence, and was one of the most indefatigable members of the staff with which Mr. S. O. Beeton surrounded himself—a group of magazine writers, as they were called, that comprised men like the late Tom Robertson and poor "Billy" Stevens. He might some years since have had the post of editor of a leading journal in Yorkshire, which offer, however, he declined. The ing journal in Yorkshire, which offer, however, he declined. The charms of a London life were too strong for him. In connection with sporting journalism Mr. Wormald has accomplished in his time a vast amount of honourable work. He was one of the contributors to the Sporting Gazette in the days when that journal was owned by a limited propritary of "lords, dukes and admirals," and was one of the writers on the Sportsman during the most aggressive period of "Vigilant's" career in that journal. Subsequently he became yachting correspondent and an occasional leader-writer on sporting subjects in the Daily News, and joint editor with Mr. H. Smarthwaite, of Bell's Life. Latterly his failing health prevented him, poor fellow! from doing perfect justice to his prostrated powers. For many weary years a martyr to rheumatic gout, last winter found him laid aside with a complicated attack of bronchitis and congestion of the lungs. His friends feared that his end was at hand, but such was his own brave cheery nature that, hoping with all their might against hope, they prayed that "Dear hoping with all their might against hope, they prayed that "Dear old Tommy" (the name by which he was best known to the friends who loved him, and to know him was to love him) would yet recover. But, alas! it was not to be, The seldom genial days

of early summer were too fleeting to bring in their train any permanently healing influence on the pitifully emaciated frame. He never gave in—he was too brave for that—but his friends did. He never gave in-Only last week, seated in the very room where at this moment these lines fall so feebly from the pen, he spoke with the heart of a lion of what he would do in the future, when he had taken another house. He went home and died. In many a circle for many a year to come Wormald's name will be remembered with deep tender regret. He never made an enemy and never lost a friend. He was a gentle-man in the old chivalric sense of the term. In truth, a very perfect knight. In closing this sadly inadequate notice of Robert B. Wormald, we remember, with mournful pleasure, that he was connected with this journal from the first number to the hour of his death. Almost the last lines he wrote were the "Answers to Correspondents," in our last week's Chess column. The last important work of his pen is a story which will appear in our "Christmas Number," to be published next week. Poor Wormald leaves a widow to mourn his loss. God rest him and comfort her.

REVIEWS.

Old and New London. A Narrative of its History, its People, and its Places. Vol. IV. By EDWARD WALFORD. London, Paris, and New York: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.

The present volume, in continuation of that previously issued, deals with Westminster and its surroundings, and is profusely illustrated with views and portraits, many of which are reproductions of scarce and choice originals. We have already spoken in the highest terms of the preceding volumes, and the present is quite worthy of its predecessors. The stories of old London streets are deeply interesting, and afford pleasant glimpses of famous men and women in the anecdotal bye-ways of their lives. The belles and beaux of the once fashionable districts now de-serted by fashion and rank and occupied by very mean suc-cessors, the houses which were the residences of eminent people, famous old theatres (amongst them a capital view from a scarce print of the Little Theatre in the Haymarket on a winter night, and the old Pantheon Theatre, as it appeared just before it was burnt), with anecdotes of those who played upon their boards (we do not, however, like the ill-drawn, untrue, and coarsely cut portrait of Foote) figure in this volume. We trust that before the close of this work a careful index will be prepared as its crowning feature, without which half the value of a production so exhaustively comprehensive will assuredly be lost.

The Clan of the Cats. True stories about the feline animals. The Clan of the Cats. True stories about the feline animals. London: Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday. These stories are pleasantly and simply told, and the collection embraces much that is extremely interesting. The book, with its numerous illustrations, will be a great favourite amongst the young folks, who are now on the tip-toe of eager expectation with regard to their forthcoming Christmas presents. The tone of the work is such as parents generally will warmly appreciate. Most of the engravings are by the Typographic Etching Company, and fully prove how admirable that process is in the hands of a careful draughtsman. admirable that process is in the hands of a careful draughtsman.

On a Pincushion, and other fairy tales, by Mary de Morgan, with illustrations by William de Morgan. London: Seeley, Jackson, and Co. A very carefully got up and well illustrated work, most of the drawings being engraved by the Typographic Etching Company. There is a quaint, old-world feeling about the treatment of these drawings which has a touch of affectation in the control of in it; but they are very fresh in conception, and executed with much care and ability. The stories are full of simple grace, and charming in both tone and feeling.

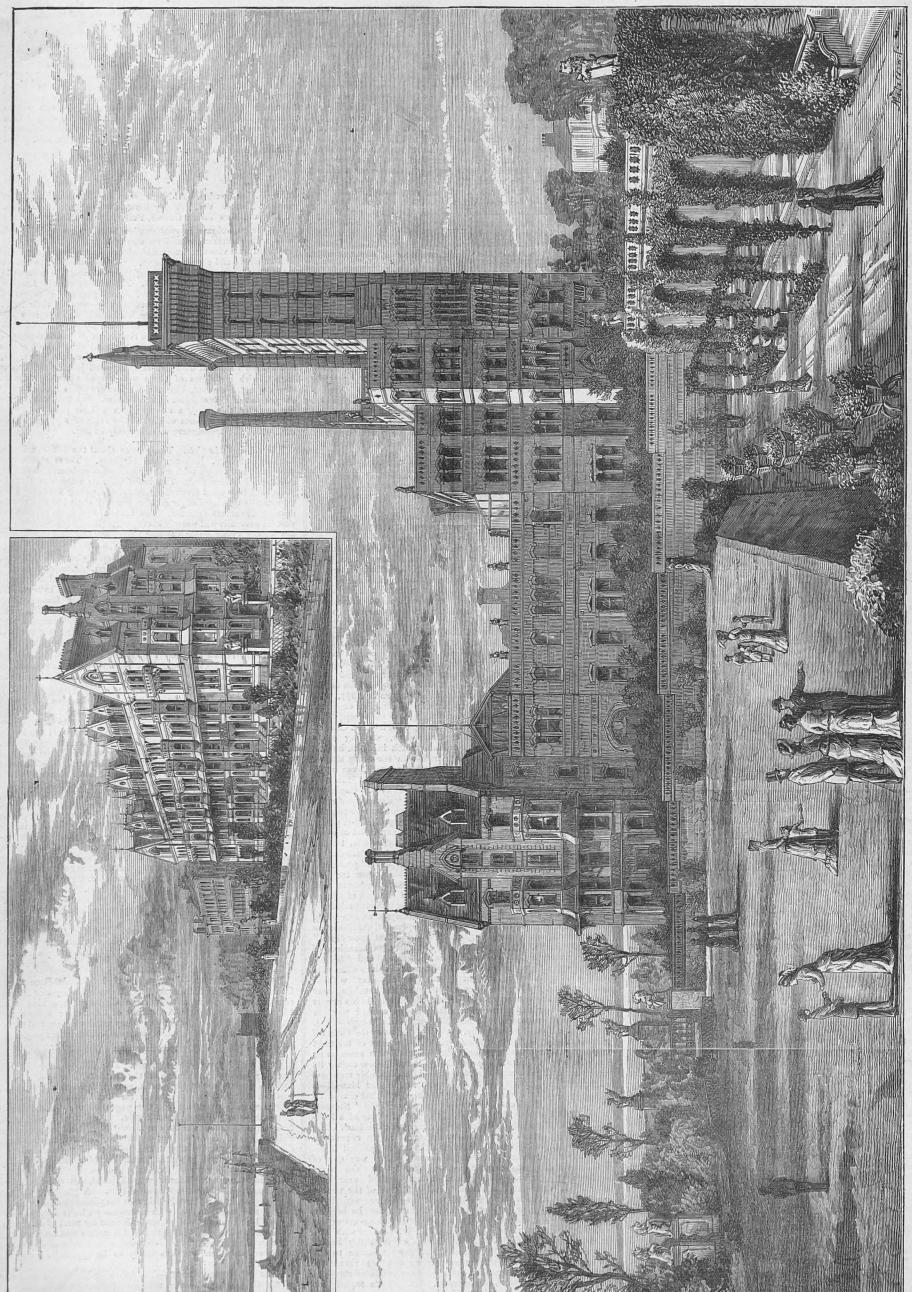
The "Agricultural Gazette" Almanac for 1877. London: W. Richards. This is a useful little manual, which both in matter and illustrations will be specially interesting and useful to the readers for whom it has been produced.

A Book of the Play. By Dutton Cook. London: Sampson Low and Co. (Second notice).—In our notice of Mr. Dutton Cook's interesting volumes we promised to return to them, a promise which we now fulfil. After dealing somewhat too briefly with that most interesting and fruitful of picturesque subjects, with that most interesting and fruitful of picturesque subjects, strolling, and drawing a contrast between the old strollers and modern provincial players, we have a chapter devoted to some curiosities of the money-taker's department, in the course of which a large number of interesting facts are put together. Chap. VIII. gives a picturesquely historical account of "the Pit," its audiences, and its old critics of the formidable two firstrows. The next chapter deals with a now departed feature of the two great patent theatres of London—namely the footmen's gallery—and thence we proceed to pass in review the old systems of lighting the stage—the orchestra, prologues, the art of "making up," scenery, dresses, first appearances, and strange to say, no last appearances. Stage whispersfill a chapter, as do stage ghosts and the book of the play. The old half-price system is a peg whereon Mr. Cook has contrived to hang many interesting memories and facts. Stage wigs and to hang many interesting memories and facts. Stage wigs and stage business in various directions; the "super," "gag," balletdancing, pantomimes, hissing, and epilogues, complete the list of subjects, all of which serve to bring into the book new elements of interest, very fresh and very taking. The book, in short, is not a big book, but it is a very readable one, specially interesting to a large section of our readers—namely, professional players and regular playgoers.

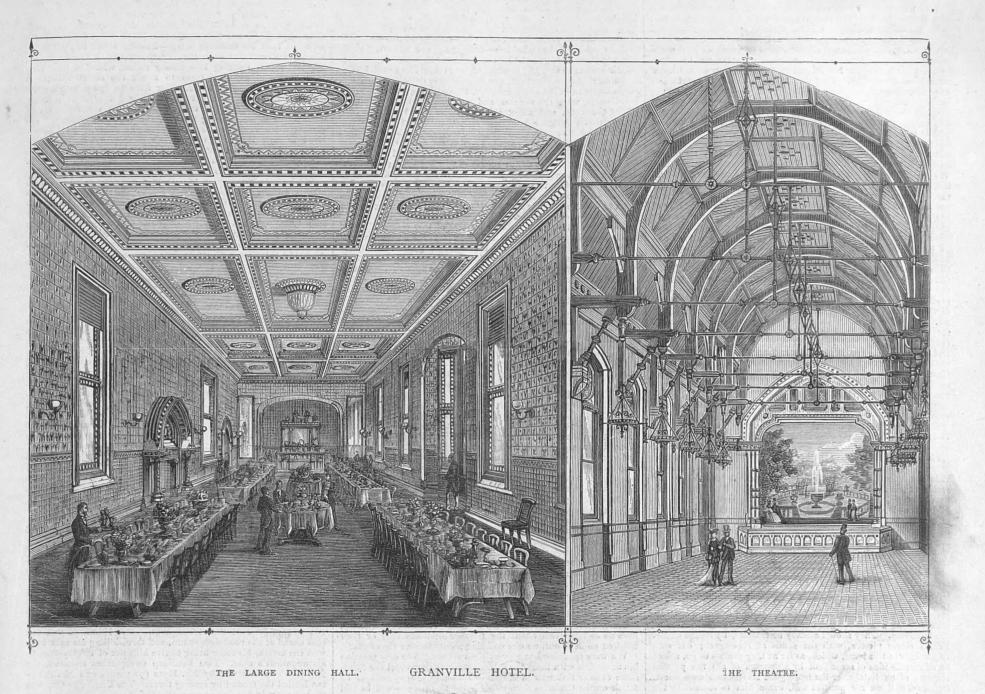
BOOKS RECEIVED.—Jaan, a novel by Rhoda Broughton; Charles Watts's Christmas Annual; Tinsley's Magazine for December (an excellent number); the Charing Cross Magazine; Shadows on the Snow; A Century of Discovery; Maidenhood on the verge of the stream; and many other volumes and magazines, all of which will shortly receive attention in our pages.

OUR well-known contemporary, The Westminster Papers, speaking of the chess-doings of the past month says:—" A senspeaking of the class-toings of the past month says:—"A sensational incident of the past month, as regards metropolitan chess, was the unlooked-for appearance (in little) of a number of its practitioners and critics in the pages of the ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS. Any casual visitor to Simpson's Divan on the 11th ult., must have been struck by the visible signs of an excitement entirely foreign to the gravity and decorum that usually attend the practice of "gentle chess."
Everyone appeared to be in possession of a folio publication and a joke, and seemed bent upon displaying the one and explaining the other. Like most good jokes this one needed no explanation—to the initiated at all events. A glance at the fullexplanation—to the initiated at an events. At granter at the lumpage engraving of a chess-board, with the pieces strewn carelessly over it, and these topped with humorous portraits of persons of note in London chess circles, was sufficient for most of us. It is questionable if some of the satire of the article that accompanied the engraving is not wasted on persons unworthy of any notice whatever, but it is not less likely to be appreciated on that account.

SALE OF BLOOD STOCK.—The following horses, the property of Sir G. Chetwynd, were sold on Monday at Tattersall's:—Strenua, brf, 2yrs, by The Duke—Mellona (Mr. Bevill) 38gs.; Muta, Ch f, 2yrs, by The Duke—Mirello (Colonel Maude) 180gs.; Lizzie Distin, b f, 3 yrs, by Distin—Lizzie (Mr. G. C. Carew-Gibson) 300gs.; Ch f, 2 yrs, by Knight of the Crescent—Mavela (Mr. Bates) 44gs.



THE GRANVILLE HOTEL, -AS VIEWED FROM THE GARDEN AND FROM THE TOP OF THE CL.





SPORT IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THE NORTH POLE.—(From a Picture in the Danish Gallery.)

THE GRANVILLE HOTEL, RAMSGATE.

THE reproach, "You are Americanising our institutions," is less frequently heard nowadays than it was a few years since, that is to say, in the hot youth of the member for Birmingham, yet, socially, the accusation is at present far more pertinent than it was politically, at the not remote period to which we have made it was politically, at the not remote period to which we have made reference. It has been alleged, in disparagement of our American cousins, the leading classes of the States, that they do not know what home-life means. That they live perpetually in hotels, and have therefore yet to learn and feel the proper signification of the word "comfort," as that—we are pleased to think—essentially English blessing is realised in this "snug little island." Without entering into an argument on the subject, we may be permitted to doubt some of the travellers' tales, which have left on our minds an impression of the discomfort, regarded from an English point of view, of American hotel-life. The more so, that we have of late years gone into the mammoth hotel business on our own account. We have thus far Americanised our most conservative of social We have thus far Americanised our most conservative of social institutions, the inn, but we have done it with a difference. Even as the London street cars, an imported American "institution" are in point of comfort superior to their prototypes on the other side of the Atlantic, in like manner must the more splendid of the larger hotels of the States yield to several remarkable establishments of the kind which Great Britain has acquired, most certainly to one of the grandest and best-appointed of the entire group, the hotel whose name and location heads this article. For more than a century, the favoured South-coast town, of which the Granville is the chief embellishment, has held its own as one of the most fashionable of our marine resorts, and during that the most fashionable of our maine resorts, and during that period it may fairly be added that the irreproachable reputation of the town for salubrity has kept pace with its popularity, which is saying much in its praise. It has remained, however, for the Granville—which is a wondrously contrived and magnificently built settlement, rather than an ordinary type of hotel, and as such it may have suggested to Dr. Richardson the notion of his Hygieopolis—we say it has remained for the Granville to supply the place which it adorns with an element that was previously lacking, namely, an hotel of unusual beauty, and practically illimitable resources; an establishment perfectly adapted in every way for a winter as well as a summer residence, a home as well as an inn, a pleasant retreat wherein the visitor might confidently reckon upon finding his bodily comfort a subject of unceasing care and study, and where he could be certain of a varied fund of amusement being provided for him within the walls of the house. There can be no doubt that when the remarkable advantages offered to visitors by the Granville are known, it will become one of the most favourite winter residences in England. Its close contiguity to London—for the residences in England. Its close contiguity to London—for the iron horse practically annihilates such a trifling distance as eighty odd miles—is one of its recommendations. A week or a fortnight odd miles—is one of its recommendations. A week or a fortnight at the Granville during the murkiest of the months is just the sort of pick-up which a professional man, if he once experienced its inestimable value, would frequently have recourse to. And for that class of invalids who have not yet made it a matter of religion to winter in Pau, or Nice, or Algiers, and who are sensible enough to know that baths of every description can be obtained in England just as easily as in any poky little German town, let them, if their desire to be braced up is genuine, try a course of Granville. Those of our American readers who are at recent exicuring in Furguer together with those who content present sojourning in Europe, together with those who contemplate making a descent upon our shores, should make a note of the Granville. They should already be familiar, by means of Mr. Frith's clever picture, with the sands at Ramsgate; our own Frith's clever picture, with the sands at Ramsgate; our own engravings in this issue, which, as far as they profess to go, afford an admirable idea of some (but by no means of all) the palatial features of an hotel after the intelligent American's own heart, ought to, and we are positive will, cause him to remember the Granville as the place par excellence which must be seen—an establishment, the resources of which deserve to be tested.

"It is a great mistake," says Bear's local guide to the Isle of Thanet, "to suppose that a winter at Ramsgate involves climatical disadvantages not common to London or Brighton. The ocean breezes may occasionally blow more strongly, but there are not the fogs, draughts or damp which are to be found in what have been supposed to be snug winter quarters." A few days since we were glancing at this statement in the smoking room of the above-

Thanet, "to suppose that a winter at Ramsgate involves climatical disadvantages not common to London or Brighton. The ocean breezes may occasionally blow more strongly, but there are not the fogs, draughts or damp which are to be found in what have been supposed to be snug winter quarters." A few days since we were glancing at this statement in the smoking room of the abovementioned hotel. It was about three hours after we had shiveringly left London, with its gas alight, involved in the gloom and misery of a thick damp foggy atmosphere; and here the sun was cheerfully shining, the sky blue, and the air clear and warm, although a delightfully fresh breeze was blowing from the sea. The general aspect was indeed rather that of early spring than the end of November.

"Of course you've not had this delightful weather long?" said we to our courteous, obliging, quiet and retiring friend, the waiter. "About a week, sir," replied he, with a respectful air of indifference, which said, as plainly as words could, "I'm used to it, you won't catch me gushing over such a poor common place affair as fine winter weather in Ramsgate."

as the winter weather in Ramsgate."

Envious and surprised we were silent, saying to ourselves, "Bear is apparently right." Then we remembered how Bear merely echoed the assertions of numerous authorities, whose words were supported by statistical facts and figures, and we began to wonder how it was that Ramsgate was not more popular as a seaside resort in winter than it appeared to be. In the midst of our wondering, the manager of the hotel, a very gentlemanly man, who had passed much of his time in India, introduced himself to us, and seeking information, with a vague idea of this article first looming through our thoughts, we began to question him on the subject, drifting from which, naturally enough, we fell to talking about the hotel itself.

about the hotel itself.

And, really, we were in quite a wonderful place. The Granville is a curiosity, a model hotel, quite important and interesting enough to the general public to justify any journalist in writing about it, without any of those shallow trumpery excuses which stamp trade puffery, direct or indirect. Whether you go to the Granville when you visit Ramsgate, or exchange your own roomy, well ventilated, properly drained, and comfortably furnished home in London, for stuffy little rooms in ill-built, clumsily drained houses which abound in sea-side resorts, is of no special consequence to us, we are simply going to deal with things in-

The Granville is a small town with all the means and appliances for ministering to the necessities, luxuries, and ordinary requirements of quite a large population. And the way in which it does this work, so quietly and unostentatiously, with such an entire absence of fuss, is both curious and instructive. You might live in the place for months without discovering that quite a little hive of manufacturing and working bees found employment within its walls. The sawyer's shop, the engineer's shop, the carpenter's shop, the upholsterer's shop, the baker's shop, and the mineral water manufactory, are all in full swing here, making, repairing, or improving with the aid of steam and machinery; and outside are the stables, farm, and the dairy belonging to the establishment, with a constant going to and fro in connection with their produce. Yet the inmates never see anything of such matters; the most profound order, cleanliness, and quietude

reign throughout the vast establishment.

And the Granville, as we have said, is also a little City of Health, in Dr. Richardson's particular way. From the outside and

for miles around you may see a vast chimney-shaft towering above the hotel and duly guarded, as, indeed, every part of the building is, with lightning conductors. It is not an ornament from an artistic point of view, and it is rather too suggestive of a factory to be a desirable architectural feature; but who would be without it who knows anything about that perplexingly troublesome subject to all wise householders—drainage. The towering shaft, 175ft or more in height, is in connection with a service of pipes which conveys the hotel sewage under ground to an outlet three miles off; and to avoid all the unavoidable defects of sink and drain trapping in the most effective, although in what is also the most costly, way, the vapours and noisome smells which might offend the nose, and affect injuriously the blood through the stomach and lungs, are diverted into that huge shaft, from the top of which they emerge to be harmlessly dispersed "into thin air." We cannot pause to note the discussion which sometimes arises concerning the relative merits of systems of ventilation other than that of the shaft; suffice it to add that here, in combination with a special arrangement for forcing out foul air from sewage-pipes into this chimney, the former are kept so far free from poisonous vapours, that practically none can escape from them to contaminate the air within the building over them, or that of its surrounding grounds. No mean advantage this.

Another of the most striking features of this pleasant model

home is made by the various baths, twenty-five in number, all fitted with the latest appliances, luxuries, and improvements, including Turkish, electric, vapour, douche, shower, swimming, sitz, medicated, ozone, and other baths, with all the different appliances used in our popular hydropathic system of cure. Trained assistants are here in waiting, and a medical gentleman is ready to give advice or superintend. In the pretty, cheerful-looking sea-water bath, the water comes from the neighbouring sea, retiring and rising with the tide, always fresh. And here, ladies who shrink from exposing their dainty forms in close-clinging dresses to the staring crowd on the sands, or dislike the clumsy, comfortless, old bathing-machines, may, on the days devoted to them, enjoy all the comforts and benefits of sea-water bathing with the privacy of home. The Turkish suite of rooms have an advantage only to be appreciated by those who have experienced its absence in ordinary Turkish baths, not excluding the very best in London. Each of the heated chambers is so thoroughly ventilated that the current of hot air is kept pure and dry, and consequently can—even in the hottest room—be breathed with a degree of ease and comfort by no means common in such chambers elsewhere. To point out the cleanliness, elegance, comfort, and many special features of this portion of the hotel would demand a book rather than an article. They must consequently be passed over, although we may add that a small descriptive pamphlet has been printed, and is to be obtained in the hotel.

The building itself is seen at its best in the view from the

The building itself is seen at its best in the view from the gardens, selected by our artist for the larger drawing on another page. It was built by the late well-known architect, Mr. Welby Pugin, and was originally intended for a row of handsome, roomy, private residences facing the sea, fitted with all those domestic sanitary arrangements and conveniences now-a-days demanded by wealthy householders. The smaller view above the larger one shows the sea-front, and it will be seen that, from the cliff, it still retains the appearance of a row of houses. Indeed, it retains something more than the appearance, inasmuch as the separate half-glass entrances have all been retained, together with the different staircases, to avoid the inconveniences of a common entrance and staircase for all the visitors. Ladies, consequently, have no compunction about the number of times they or their children go in or out, no one suffering inconvenience therefrom.

We were speaking but now of the gardens. We may mention in connection with them the splendid croquet lawn and the handsome skating rink now in progress—which, in consequence of an article on the Clapham rink, published in this paper—will be laid withmarble. From the garden—which with its terraces, fountains, and arbours is extremely picturesque—a subterraneous staircase descends to the sands, on which arrangements are being made for the erection of a winter garden, aquarium, and pier, to run out into the sea, as a promenade. A new drive from the top of the cliff, opposite the hotel, down to the sea, is also in active pro-

gress.

Returning to the hotel from the garden, we enter the restaurant and luncheon bar, spacious, richly decorated, and handsomely furnished. The chairs here, designed by Pugin, are some of the most comfortable we ever sat in, although they have a quaint old-world air about them, which is very original and somewhat primitive.

From here we find our way into the great gothic dining-hall—quite a baronial one—with a mighty chimney, having huge solid dogs, and bearing a legend in old English letters:

"Pile on the Logs to Make the Fire Grent."

Large and lofty as the hall is, with its long rows of tables and chairs, there is nothing cheerless or formal looking about it, its noble proportions giving it a symmetry which, with rich colours and gilding, stained glass and carved oaken furniture, in keeping with its character, secure an air of cheerful comfort almost suggestive of snugness, and that, too, in the mind of a single visitor standing alone within its far spreading space.

of snugness, and that, too, in the mind of a single visitor standing alone within its far spreading space.

From the great dining-hall to the theatre—where a completely fitted stage, with scenery by Grieve, having dressing-rooms, machinery, &c., complete for the production of dramatic or musical entertainments exists—is but a little way. Of this theatre we give a small sketch, which necessarily excludes a balcony at one end capable, alone, of holding over four hundred neonle.

end capable, alone, of holding over four hundred people. Then there is the ball-room, another large, richly-decorated and furnished apartment (not shown in our illustration), having a supper-room adjoining, capable of holding in comfort two hundred (or more) guests, and, like every portion of the house, artistically adorned with colour, gilding, and rich woods.

Another matter we may note as commendable here is the entire absence of the granulated surface of paint, which always catches dirt more readily and holds it more pertinaciously than most other surfaces. Here we have a smooth, hard face of varnish over the unconcealed wood, with its varied beauties of figure and colour richly displayed, in the place of a monotonous sameness of drab or grey, or that greater abomination, badly-imitated graining over the real thing! All through the hotel, in the bed-room furniture and on the walls, this plan has been adopted, and its advantages are very readily seen, both in its singular cleanliness and the hand-someness of its appearance.

In other sections of the hotel, we have a large, elegantly-fitted drawing-room, set apart for the ladies, containing a very handsome Broadwood piano; together with billiard and chess rooms, in connection with the latter being a club, for which members are duly represented the

are duly proposed and elected.

Here is a library for bad weather, which, however, has yet to be supplied with books suitable for the amusement or information of sea-side visitors seeking pleasure or health. Here is a laundry with a little world of mechanical appliances all worked by steam for washing, drying, airing, &c. Talking of airing, by-the-bye, the arrival of visitors, we were informed, is a signal for conveying the whole of the bedding appropriated to them into the hottest of the very hot Turkish bath-rooms. Williams, of High Holborn, is spoken of in high terms in the laundry. The virtues of one of his revolving machines were as elaborately explained to us as if we were going to devote a paper specially

thereto. A wonderful wringer had its merits also enthusiastically eulogised, but that was a very old affair made by some dead and gone inventor whose unknown name we cannot glorify. The system of mangling also calls in vain for notice, capital as it was, as also do the hot-air drying-rooms, the outdoor drying places, the tower-like tanks for soft-water, the separate tank for drinking water—holding about 800 gallons—the linen storerooms over the hot rooms of the Turkish baths, the bed-rooms opening into sitting rooms, which in their turn may have the windows open to admit the sea-air without a draught to the sleeping room. Nor have we space to note the dry, gravelled promenade between trees and flowers in front of the hotel and along the cliff, the pleasant coffee-room and smoking-room overlooking the sea, the ingenious plan for excluding window-draughts, and preventing noise from their shaking, however high the wind may be, nor, in fact, one-half of those features, which minister to the comfort or convenience of visitors to one of the most admirably-managed, fitted, and complete home-like hotels to be found in this or, probably, any other country.

We had nearly forgotten to note that arrangements have been made with the authorities of the South Eastern Railway Company to run a special first class private and express train to Ramsgate every Friday after the 22nd inst. until further notice. The same train—which, by-the-bye, does the journey in five minutes over two hours—will return from Ramsgate every Wednesday. This is something altogether unique in the history of hotel enterprise, and therefore well deserves its place in these columns.

PIGEON SHOOTING.

INTERNATIONAL GUN AND POLO CLUB.

Although the weather on Monday week was somewhat adverse to sport, there was a numerous attendance of members at the headquarters of this club, Preston, near Brighton. Handicap sweepstakes, of £1 each, at three birds, formed the chief items on the programme, and of these ten were decided, besides several matches. Mr. Carrington won the first and second by killing three each; Mr. Fuller landed the third, and the fourth was divided between Mr. A. Rush and Mr. Seaton. The fifth fell to Mr. Carrington, who alone killed three. Mr. Fuller and Mr. Barker divided the next, and in the seventh Mr. G. H. Beard shared the pool with Mr. Fuller. Mr. Beard carried off the eighth, and Mr. A. Rush the ninth, the latter also dividing the tenth with Mr. Fuller. A couple of matches, for a "tenner" each, were shot off between Mr. Carrington and Mr. Seaton, both of whom stood at 35 yards' rise, and shot at five birds. Mr, Seaton was successful in the first, and Mr. Carrington in turn defeated him in the second. Another meeting of the club was held on Thursday, when the free silver cup was shot for.

THE MIDDLESEX GUN CLUB.

A meeting of this club held at Hendon, on the following Tuesday, resulted in a very pleasant afternoon's sport. Mr. Acland, who shot with great precision, secured no less than five separate sweepstakes, and the day's proceedings were not brought to a close until darkness intervened. S. Hammond supplied some capital birds.

Notwithstanding the exceedingly bad state of the weather on Saturday, there was a capital meeting of the members at Hendon. Sport began early with a match for £50, at twenty-five pigeons each, 27 yards rise, between Mr. Allerton and Mr. Edmunds. It was admirably contested throughout. Mr. Edmunds was one bird ahead at the twentieth round, and then, killing his next two, won the match, his score being twelve kills out of twenty-two, to his opponent's nine. Two handicap sweepstakes followed, the first of which was won by Mr. Maas (30 yards), and Mr. Allerton landed the second by scoring three. The Challenge Cup was then shot for in handicap sweepstakes of £2 each, at seven birds. There were ten competitors, and Mr. Edmunds, who was in good form, was victorious at the sixth round, killing six out of seven. Besides becoming the first holder of the cup, Mr. Edwards was awarded £15, and it was rather a curious coincidence that Mr. Allerton, with whom he had just shot the match, should run him nearly to a tie for the cup. A£1 sweep at one bird was won by Mr. Vaughan.

THE GUN CLUB, NOTTING HILL.

The attendance at the club ground on Saturday was but a meagre one, consequent on the wretched state of the weather. Only five sportsmen contended in the Optional Sweepstakes at six birds each, to which was added a cup, valued at £15. The conditions stipulated that the event should be shot off at two distances, three being shot at 26 yards, and three at 29. The Hon. J. B. Roche and Capt. A. L. Patton tied, by killing five out of six, and, in shooting off, the former won at the second round. Four other sweepstakes were also decided, the winners being Capt. H. A. Fane and Mr. Den.

SOUTH KENSINGTON SKATING RINK.—The opening night of the Winter Season was inaugurated at this rink (located about five minutes' walk from either the South Kensington or the Gloucester-road Stations of the Metropolitan District Railway) on Saturday evening, when a numerous and fashionable company assembled. In addition to the very extensive open surface area, a spacious covered building has been erected, which is well lighted, and where during unseasonable weather the skating can be comfortably carried on. There are also lounging, smoking, and reading rooms attached to the rink.

Science Lectures at South Kensington.—The free Saturday evening lecture of the series now being given at South Kensington in connection with the Loan Collection of Scientific Instruments, was given on Saturday evening by Mr. J. S. Gardner, F.G.S., on the Tropical Forests of Hampshire. Mr. J. S. Gardner commenced by remarking that although the temperature of England is now far from tropical, we have evidence of more than one tropical geological period. During the early eocene time it is inferred the district around Bournemouth was clothed with a tropical vegetation, and the drift of the lecturer was to show the ground upon which this inference is based. In the clays and sands of the early eocene period there are met with countless numbers of fossil leaves. For years past Mr. Gardner has collected these, and they are sufficiently perfect to admit of comparison with existing forms. In these times grew around Bournemouth the graceful fan-palm and the feather palms, which gave softness to the view by their elegantly-curved and drooping leaves, laurel and dwarfed oak, stately beeches, clumps of feathery acacia, trellised and festooned with smilax, the trailing aroid, with its large and glossy foliage, an undergrowth of mimosa and of cypress in the swampier ground, and variations in colour caused by the foliage of cinnamon and fig, and the ground clothed with ferns and sedges. The lecturer also gave a résumé of the explanations which geologists offer of the conditions under which such plants could grow in the latitude of England, and mentioned the lact that at that charming spot, Glengarrif, in the west of Ireland, the arbutus forms forests. An explanation of the physical conditions under which the beds were formed was also given.

COUGHS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS.—Medical Testimony states that no other medicine is so effectual in the cure of these dangerous maladies as Keating's Cough Lozenges, One lozenge alone gives relief, one or two at bedtime ensures rest. Sold by all Chemists, in boxes, at 15. 1\(\frac{1}{2}\)d. and 25. 9d. They contain no opium or preparation thereof.—[Anvr.]

CRICKET, AQUATICS, AND ATHLETICS.

THE Freshmen's meeting at Oxford calls for first notice in the athletic world, and despite the lack of accommodation for training that the athletes at the dark blue 'varsity have experienced, the performances at the new ground on the Iffley Road on Wednesday and Thursday week were fairly up to the mark. Last week I drew attention to the high jumping as being good, but I cannot say very much for the sister competition, 19ft. $4\frac{1}{2}$ in., being not a very grand essay nowadays, albeit want of practice must be taken into consideration, as at no species of competition must be taken into consideration, as at no species of competition can greater improvement be made by steady work. F. W. Humphrey, of Ch. Ch., was the hero of the meeting, and on a heavy course 15 3-5sec with 12 yards start for 150 yards, and 50 2-5sec for the quarter with 30 yards, both in the same afternoon, were no mean performances. Trepplin, of B.N.C., won the 100 yards easily in 10 3-5sec, and when he becomes a little more proficient at starting will very likely be able to do the conventional 10 1-5sec so many lay claim to. Cox. of Tripity, landed the 100 yards easily in 10 3-5sec, and when he becomes a little more proficient at starting will very likely be able to do the conventional 10 1-5sec so many lay claim to. Cox, of Trinity, landed the level quarter in a canter, and the open one mile handicap fell to a Cantab, W. Collier, who, with 68 yards start, was, in my opinion, thrown in; the time however, 4min 36 3-5 sec, was nothing grand. Oxford will next term lose the services of their president, Mr. J. Brooks, of B.N.C., who, on Thursday week, took his B.A. At Cambridge, on Thursday week, the St. Peter's College sports were decided, but, with the exception of the strangers' 1,000 yards handicap, nothing extraordinary took place, the best of the members being W. A. Walters and W. H. Pardoe. The strangers' race was a rare one, and resulted in favour of H. Ohm, Emmanuel College, 40 yards start, but only by a foot from Jones, of Jesus, 45 yards; time, 2min. 27 1-5th sec. Caius College Sports were decided on Friday and Saturday, the open event being in this instance distant 120 yards, and after some fine racing E. Baddeley, of Jesus College, 5 yards, winning by a yard; S. Palmer, Corpus, $6\frac{1}{2}$ yards, being second. Time, 12 1-5th sec., whilst strange to state the members' events were fairly divided. On Saturday the annual open steeplechase of the Peckham Amateur Club was decided in a drenching rain, but, nevertheless, twenty-three out of forty-three who had sent in their names put in an appearance. The course was the stranger of about four miles. who had sent in their names put in an appearance. The course runs through the Dulwich country a distance of about four miles, but owing to the fields being very heavy the time was poor. Eventually H. Bishop, S. L. H., 4min. 30sec., was declared the victor by 7sec. from W. W. Davis, P.A.A.C., 3min., he being 26sec. in advance of W. M. Colson, of the same club, who had we have a constant of the same club, who had the same can be supported by the same club. 26sec. in advance of W. M. Colson, of the same club, who had 2min. 5sec., the winner's time being 36min. 5osec. On Monday evening the West London Boxing Club gave their first prize competition this season, but the performances were nothing very brilliant, W. Cherrington securing the light weight event, and the heavy competition being won by J. Heath. Athletics have been brought to a conclusion at both Universities. At length the L.A.C. have definitely decided to have a ground of their own, a specifical having hear held for that purpose lest Thursday evening meeting having been held for that purpose last Thursday evening, and I hear the trustees anticipate having it ready for opening by April. Somewhere in the region of the Chelsea Station a piece of ground has been obtained, and ere last week's meeting dispersed no less a sum than £1,600 had been subscribed.

Upwards of a hindred matches at football were decided on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday last, independent of college meetings at the Universities. Ravenscourt Park had a rare tussle with the Royal School of Mines; but neither gained any advantage, the result being a draw and a touch-down to each. St. Andrew's Day is an institution at Eton College, and, as according to custom, the students have a whole holiday, football reigned supreme. The first match was between the College, and Ossi supreme. The first match was between the Collegers and Oppidans; but, after a determined struggle, the only result obtained being four shies for the College to nil. In the afternoon, the play was between Oxford and Cambridge, both sides being well re E. Lyttelton and J. F. Chance, the Cantabs proved the victors by two goals to love. Richmond have made a journey to Sandhurst, and gave the R. M. C. a rare drubbing on their own ground, as they won by two goals, two tries, and an innumerable amount of tries to pathing. The draw for the second ties of the Directors. of tries to nothing. The draw for the second ties of the Birmingham and District Association Cup have, I hear, taken place with the following results, viz., Wednesbury Town v Calthorpe; Saltby College v Tipton; Wednesbury Old Athletic v Wednesbury Old Park; Stafford Road v St. George's, or Cannock; all of these must be decided previously to Jan. 14, 1877. On Saturday, the principal metropolitan match was the one between South Norwood and Sheffield, at the Oval, for the Association Tie; and, as usual, the north countrymen were not blessed with fine weather, rain coming down with full force as the leather was set in motion by the South Norwood at three o'clock. The Shef-fielders quite mastered their opponents from the first, securing two

goals by half time, and five more ere the game concluded, their opponents not obtaining anything, a feature worthy of especial notice being that J. R. B. Owen made five out of the seven goals obtained by his side. At Vincent-square the School were engaged against the Old Wykehamists; and the latter could hardly make a struggle with the boys, who won by five goals to nil. Whilst Sheffield were making such mincement of the South Norwoodites, the R.E. were at the same enclosure doing ditto for the Bilgring, when they defected by forested to grant the same Norwoodites, the R.E. were at the same enclosure doing ditto for the Pilgrims, whom they defeated by four goals to none; and at Cambridge, the University Rugby team beat the Gipsies by a try to nothing; and Magdalene, and St. Catherine's, and St. Peter's played a draw, both games being decided on Parker's Piece. Several other matches were played on Saturday, although the weather was so unpropitious. The First Surrey Rifles defeating the Kensington Roamers by seven goals to none. Clapham Rovers beat Upton Park by two goals to none. Bruce Castle School and King's College School played a draw. Hendon beat the Trojans by two goals to love. St. Mary's Hospital beat Charing Cross by a try, a punt out, and five touches-down to four the Trojans by two goals to love. St. Mary's Hospital beat Charing Cross by a try, a punt out, and five touches-down to four touches-down, Crescent beat the Mars by two goals (one disputed), one try, and several touches to nothing; Herts Rangers and Barnes played a draw, Rochester beat Leyton (Essex) by two goals to one, &c., &c. At Glasgow the Rugby Union match between Glasgow and Edinburgh was played, and after one of the most exciting games ever witnessed, the visitors won, but only by a try. Next week two good matches will be played at the Oval, viz., the annual North v. South and the Rugby Union game—Oxford University v. Cambridge Unity.

Although I was unfortunate in my selection for the Trial Eights

at Cambridge, I still had a rare fight for my money, as racing men say, being, after a rare race, only beaten by a length and a half; so, for once, weight did not prove the best guide. My opinion is, that both crews were above the average, they being stroked respectively by Hockin and Hoskyns, both members of Jesus College, and after the former had forced the pace for 200 yards, his opponent drew up level, and a rare race was rowed to the Farmhouse, when Hockin began to draw away, being never again headed. The time occupied was 22 min. 30 2-5th sec. The Trial Eights at the rival 'Varsity have been in good work lately, although coaching from the tow-path, owing to the floods, has been quite impossible. Good judges—or, rather, those who consider themselves such—are much divided in their opinion of the two crews; but I fancy the race which is to be decided on Tuesday next, at Montsford, will fall to Mulgan and Co. Last Friday, the match for the championship of the light weights took place at York, the contestants being young Clasper, of Oxford, and Hills, the former being a great favourite, odds of 2 to 1 being freely laid on him, and he won with ridiculous ease by a couple of lengths. Another great match has been decided since my last, tha-between W. Lumsden, of Blyth, and W. Nicholson, of Stocktont on-Tees, and, after one of the grandest races ever witnessed since the year I, the verdict was a dead-heat, and the referee has ordered the men to row again this day (Saturday), at 9.24 a.m. The stake at issue was £200, and I fancy that the second essay will result in the victory of Nicholson, who ought to have won last Monday land and the state of the state of the state of the second essay will result in the victory of Nicholson, who ought to have won last Monday land the state of the state of

day had he steered better.

Bicycling has not been paid much attention to of late, the wet weather having caused those matches fixed for decision to be weather having caused those matches fixed for decision to be postponed; but on Monday I spent a most enjoyable evening at Messrs. Pinch's enclosure at the Victoria Skating Rink and Bicycle Grounds, Cambridge Heath. The principal attraction was a one mile race between Mr. Tippett on a bicycle and Mr. Barnes on skates, the latter conceding roo yards start, which, however, might not have prevented his winning, had not he fallen heavily in the sixth lap. A second match, however, has been made on level terms, to take place on Monday week, for a cup and bet of a "fiver." Barnes is very sanguine, as he was not in full practice, and if that be so, as he has a great advantage in not coming to grief at the corners. I must plump for the man in not coming to grief at the corners, I must plump for the man on the skates. Two amateurs also skated two miles, and one of them, Mr. Sydney, so repeatedly visited his terrestrial parent that his opponent, Mr. Thomas, won easily; after which two lads, Master J. Walker and Little Teddy, skated three miles, and the former, who gave away 20 yards, had it all his own way. I do not know of a more enjoyable place to have to visit. not know of a more enjoyable place to have to visit "on business intent" or for pleasure, as the ground is easily reached from any part of the metropolis, the usual conveyances passing the door almost momentarily, and the Cambridge Heath Station being just opposite. The proprietors, a firm of brothers, are most courteous, and besides, carry out all their proceedings in the most straightforward manner. They are having the track fresh laid and increased in circumference, with the idea of forming both amateur bicycle and pedestrian clubs, my opinion being that they are sure to meet with success. On Monday, at the Molineux Grounds, Wolverhampton, R. Wilkinson, late of South Pontop, and W. Waller, of Newcastle, rode for the One

Mile Championship of the North, and the former won easily in 3min 29}sec; and on Saturday, at Walsall, Stanton beat Thuillet in a twenty-five miles race, the Frenchman's saddle shifting at seventeen miles, and compelling him to pull up. How often these things occur now!

Pedestrianism as it is known in London, viz., professional athleticism, is likely to be as plentiful as ever this winter; and a glowing advertisement in a contemporary informs the lovers of the sport that Weston is about—at the Agricultural Hall—to compete in a six days' walk against the English champions for prizes, value 5500. "Exon" is in doubt about the champion element, value £500. "Exon" is in doubt about the champion element, and the affair savours much of another Weston ramp, as he wants a path to himself, whilst our men are all to walk together; verb. sap. To my mind, those who like a good match had better bide a wee, and journey as far as Messrs. Pinch's grounds, at Cambridge Heath, known as the Victoria Skating Rink, where W. Howes is going to try and beat Dan O'Leary in a 300 miles walk. These things, I know from experience, are very doubtful affairs to prognosticate upon; but back the Englishman will be the tip (at present, at any rate) of

THE CATTLE SHOW.

THE annual prize cattle show of the Smithfield Club was inaugurated on Monday morning in the usual manner by the labour of the judges who are appointed to decide on the merits of the animals in the different classes. This years' meeting was the 79th since the foundation of the club, and the 14th that has been held in the Agricultural Hall. Speaking generally, sheep constituted the leading feature of the show, and they were so varied and admirable in quality that they have been pronounced the finest display that has ever been seen in the Agricultural Hall. Last year the novelty was introduced of lamb classes, as a sort of compensation for the discontinuance of small Down sheep prizes, and the result was so satisfactory that the plan was this year extended so as to have a lamb class for each distinct breed of sheep. The wonderfully early development induced by judicious breeding, care, and suitable feeding were made manifest in the classes for lambs, which in point of size fell little short of matured animals. Though sheep undoubtedly carried away the bell in the present show, there was not much to complain of in regard to cattle. In all the important cattle classes specimens of the highest merit were found, and the shorthorns, both in numbers and average excellence, occupied the position which of right belongs to a breed unsurpassed for the early age at which they become marketable, and for the large proportion of meat to bone in the carcase.

The Prince of Wales left Sandringham on Monday morning, and on his arrival in town visited the Smithfield Club Cattle Show in the afternoon, where his Royal Highness met with a very enthusiastic reception.

With the exception probably of 1864, there never were seen such dense numbers as were present at the show on Wednesday last. It was calculated that, before the close of the exhibition on that night, as many as 50,000 visitors had passed through the turnstiles. Mr. Kidner's poor little curly-haired Devon Ox, which figures in our artist's drawing, was literally hemmed in by a solid wall of people from morn to night. On the other hand, Mr. Stratton's heifer, which was its competitor for the champion prize, literally broke down under the knocks and kicks and prods and manipulations she underwent, and at last it was necessary to remove her from the stall. So far as the winners of prizes are concerned, but few sales were effected. Our artist has selected from the pigs the dark improved Dorset breed, belonging to and bred by the late Charles McNiven, of Perrysfield. Oxford bred by the late Charles McNiven, of Perrysfield, Oxted, in Surrey; and the tight, round, creaseless, and sausage-like specimen of Mr. Duckering's improved Lincolnshire breed. Amongst the sheep we have sketches from some fine specimens of the pure Exmoor breed; and others of the South Down, bred by Mr. John

The show in the carriage department was small, and nothing novel exhibited, except a Patent Automatic Self-balancing Cart, sent by the manufacturers, Messrs. Bush and Co., 200, Camberwell-road, which attracted considerable attention. The advantage of the principle claimed by the patentee is that instead of the driver being pitched out of the cart by the falling of the horse the body adjusts itself instantaneously, and retains its proper

position, the occupants being as safe as in a four-wheeled carriage.

Messrs. Carter, Webb, Suttons, Gibbs, &c., had some extraordinary displays of roots. The stand of Messrs. George Gibbs &c., of Down-street, Piccadilly, displayed great taste in its arrangement, the roots shown on it were remarkably fine, and considering the wave selected from sidering they were selected from ordinary field crops, and not grown expressly for exhibition, the reputation of this old and well-known firm is still further enhanced by their present

GARDNERS' IMPROVED DUPLEX LAMPS

The maximum of light with the minimum of trouble. The principle of the duplex burner is retained, and the appearance and burning power greatly improved.

GARDNERS' NEW DINNER SERVICES,

The Osborne, the Glengariff, the Bramble and the One Thousand and Two, are all New Patterns, Perfect in Shape, Elegant in Appearance, and Unequalled in Price, for Twelve Persons Complete, £3 5s., £3 13s. 6d., £4 4s. and £5 5s.

SPECIALITE TABLE-GLASS SERVICES GARDNERS'

Are new in design and chaste in appearance, in either plain straw stem, engraved, or richly cut, for twelve persons complete. Photographs post free.

TOUGHENED' GLASS AND INDESTRUCTIBLE DINNER WARE, GARDNERS' The glass direct from De la Bastie's Manufactory. Wholesale Price Lists Post Free.

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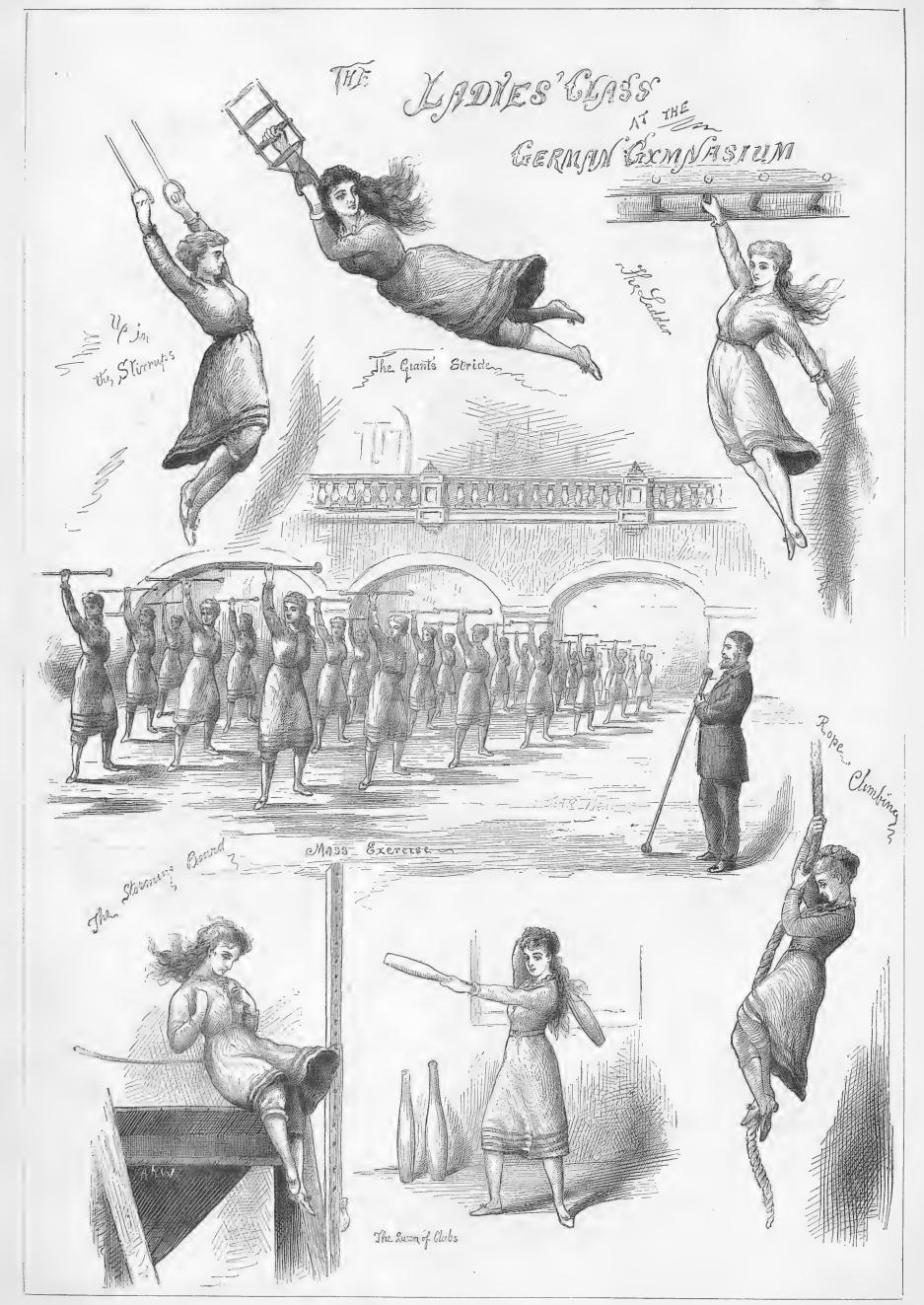
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THE LADIES' CLASS AT THE GERMAN GYMNASIUM.

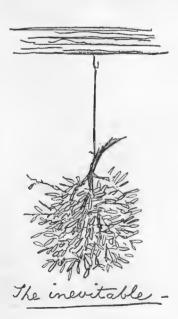
OUR CAPTIOUS CRITIC.

LIKE all the works of his pen, Mr. James Albery's most recent comic drama contains much that is fresh, quaint, and palatable in the way of humorous fancy and witty conceit. Indeed, the main cause why *The Man in Possession* fails sometimes of dramatic effectiveness is to be found in the redundance which it displays of those very qualities by which the author shines. The author, allowing his fancy to scamper uncurbed, too frequently merges the dramatist in the essayist, forgetting that, in a stage play, no



amount, howsoever brilliantly written, of casual divertisement will atone for a lagging plot or an insufficient story.

When Mr. Albery made his first and greatest success at the Vaudeville Theatre, with that bright and lively comedy, The Two Roses, he obtained a firm hold upon the popular sympathy. That he has not, with any of his later plays, achieved a triumph equal to his first, cannot in justice be put down to a falling off in wit, humour, or power of characterisation. On the contrary, as a writer he has gone on improving, his humour is more refined, his wit more polished and subtle. Possibly, this very improvement in style has helped to



injure his popularity. It is so easy to write above the comprehension of the average British playgoer. The most widely-popular comedy-writer of our time, Mr. H. J. Byron, is careful never to offend the public in this respect. He knows that there is nothing they so much resent as a witticism above their understanding; therefore, he invariably endeavours to provide familiar and palpable jokes which shall be at once obvious to the commonest intellect. Mr. Albery may now be inclined to look down on some of the very simple pleasantries, which in the *Two Roses* more delighted

the multitudes who flocked to witness that play, than could all the brilliant epigrams of Congreve; but it must be evident to him that fine writing, subtle ingenuities of fancy, or, indeed, elaborate dialogue of any kind are not much appreciated on the modern stage. A thoroughly humorous, or thoroughly dramatic, situation, though carried on in the simplest of dialogue, is of more theatrical value than an entire act of verbal witticisms. Mr. Albery's new play is itself a proof of this. The story is of the simplest kind. In fact it is almost too slight to afford sufficient dramatic material for three acts. So that in spite of the merits of the writing, the dramatic situations, which are few and far between, are hailed with evident gratitude by the ordinary spectator.

And yet The Man in Possession, in respect of other than merely dramatic qualities, is a play that one cannot help wishing to see more than once. Dressed in the every-day garb of common mortals, its characters are less like real men and women than were the fairy figures that gave such a charm to Oriana. There is a heroine, high-born and beautiful, who, in some unaccountable way, has been taken possession of in infancy by an old broker's man, and brought up by him to believe herself his daughter. That his precious foundling might not, as she grew up, take unto herself wings and fly away from her plebeian surroundings, he has educated her in a most fantastic way, feeding her young mind with luxurious delusions entirely at variance with actual fact and circumstance. She is altogether a sweet fancy portrait, this Penelope, as she is called, more suited to poetical romance than to comic drama, and over-subtly elaborated. Miss



Hollingshead plays the part with tenderness and appreciation, on two occasions rising to a high artistic level. Mr. J. L. Toole, who plays the part of the broker's man and putative parent, is exactly the same as Mr. Toole has been in several other similar parts, that the playgoer can remember, that is to say, very comic in the humorous phases of the character, but rather absurd, it seems to me in his attempts to express pathos. One of the most humorous things in the play is the attitude of Edward Titscrap (the broker's man) towards his brother William, a returned convict. This is all conceived and written in Albery's richest vein. The reputation William builds for himself among evangelical s on the strength of his past mastership in iniquity is broadly ironical and excessively amusing touch of humour. The juvenile hero of the play is the least satisfactory part in it. He seems to hesitate between being a gay, light-hearted hero of the Charles Surface type, and the gloomy lover of melodrama. Possibly the actor is mainly responsible for this uncertain effect. Miss Kate Phillips, who is about the best young soubrette the London stage possesses, plays the small part of Piggy, a gormandising domestic, with spirit. The chief fault of Mr. Albery's Man in Possession is its hap-hazard construction—a grave theatrical fault, but one which should in nowise deter such as can appreciate clever characterisation and bright, witty dialogue, from thoroughly enjoying the play, which, by the way, has another great and unusual merit-its last act is its best and strongest.

These are my impressions of the first night's performance of the Man in Possession. And I must say that although the imperfections of first nights are proverbial, it is seldom that a piece is produced at the Gaiety Theatre bearing so many evident signs of careless rehearsal on the part of the management, and insufficient study on the parts of some of the principal performers. This is a pity, for as a rule all the blame is cast upon the author, who, of course, so soon as the curtain rises must sit patiently by, helpless to prevent error or to forestal mistakes. And a piece which must depend so much for its effect upon the accurate and careful delivery of the dialogue, as this does, suffers far more from imperfect elocution on the part of the actors, than do dramas of a less refined type. There are two theatres in London which set a



brilliant example in the matter of careful rehearsal—the Prince of Wales's and the Court. In most of the others, I regret to say, the first night of a new piece is generally little more than a tolerably thorough dress rehearsal. And when the piece has been played a week the actors begin to have some correct notion of their parts.

Mr. Toole's personal popularity is so great that he received a loud and lengthened reception upon his reappearance at the



Gaiety—a reception which at the outset contributed somewhat to disturb the action of the piece. After the drama this popular droll appeared in that very stupid farce, entitled the *Spelling Bee*. Mr. Toole, however, exerts himself so vigorously in the contortion, not only of his mother tongue, but of all the muscles of his face, that he, so to speak, forces the audience to guffaw. This piece has lost much of its attractiveness by being deprived of the sprightly antics of vivacious Nelly Farren, who is at the Opera Comique.

On Wednesday at Aldridge's Repository, upwards of 120 hunters, cobs, roadsters, and harness horses were sold by auction. Polly, a well-known trotter, fetched 49 guineas, and some well-bred hunters realised 50 to 65 guineas.

bred hunters realised 50 to 65 guineas.

The Emperor of Russia has sanctioned a regulation prepared by the Minister of War, giving to the military authorities the right to requisition horses throughout the greater part of the empire in case of war. An indemnity from the crown is to be given in case of requisition. The horses of the Imperial Family, of Ambassadors, generals, and superior officers and belonging to the postal service are exempted, as well as those in the breeding establishments of the empire.

The annual sale of Royal fat stock, the property of Her Majesty, took place on Wednesday, at the Prince Consort's farm. Buyers attended from all parts of the country. The sale comprised 35 short horned bullocks and heifers, the highest price realised being £99. Two hundred and fifty Devon wether sheep brought from 105s. to 75s. each; 185 Cheviot wether sheep brought 61s. to 55s. each; 61 bacon hogs and porkers, Prince Consort's Windsor breed, from £9 to £10 each.

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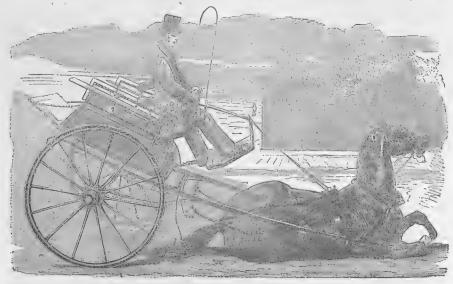
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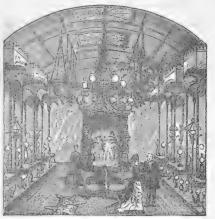
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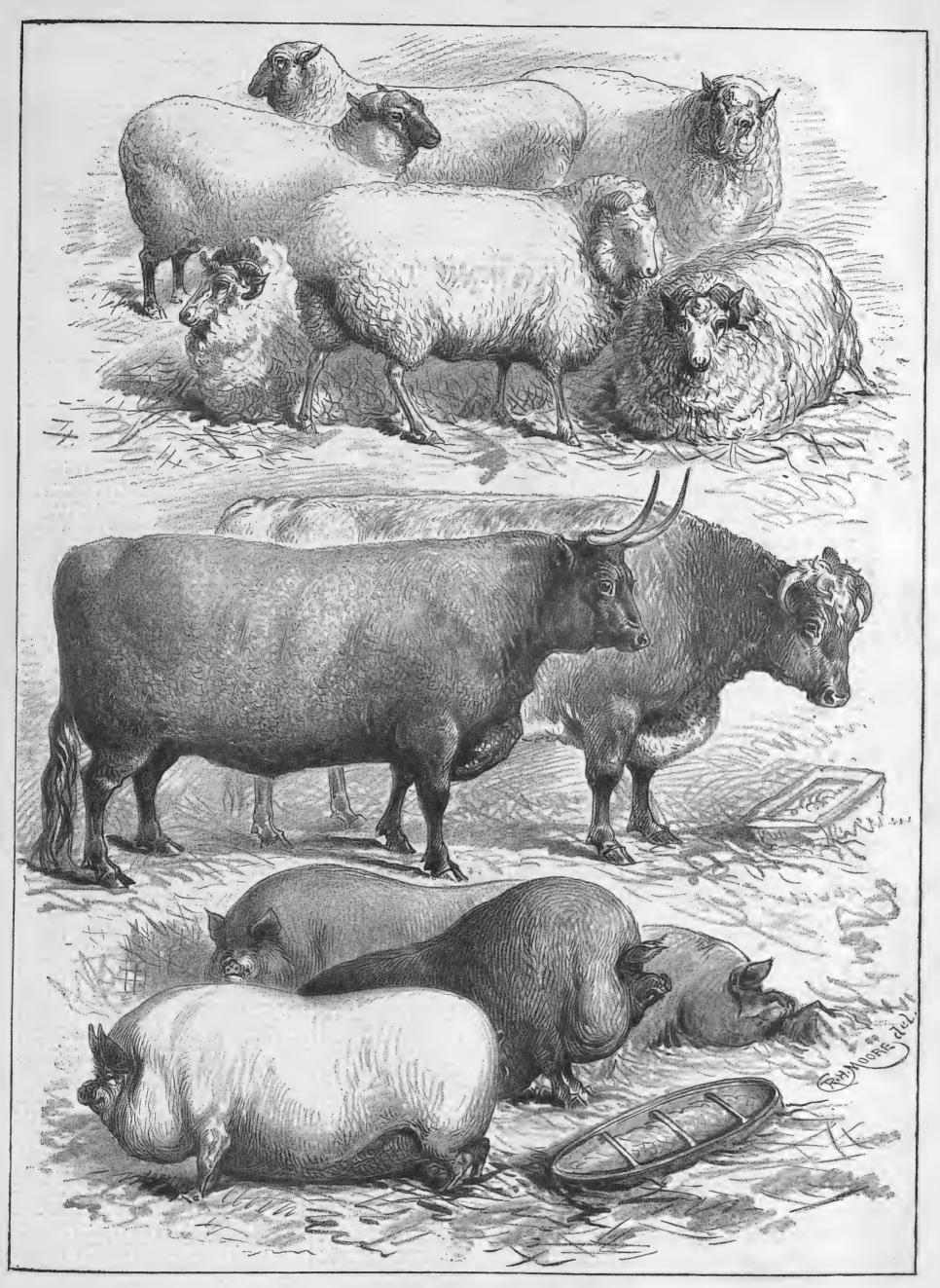
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WINNERS AT THE CATTLE SHOW.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

All advertisements for "THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS" should arrive not later than Thursday morning, addressed to "The Publisher," 148, Strand, W.C. Scale of Charges on application.

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All communications intended for insertion in "The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News" should be addressed to "The Editor," 148, Strand, W.C., and must be accompanied by the Writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Edstor will not be responsible for the return of rejected communications, and to this rule he can make no exception.

Dramatic and Sporting Correspondents will oblige the Edstor by placing the word "Drama" or "Sporting," as the case may be, on the corner of the envelope.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

* • • We have hitherto answered the larger number of letters containing queries, by post, but these are now becoming so numerous that for the future we shall reply only through the medium of this column.

SPORTING.

SPORTSMAN.—The first Derby winner was Sir Charles Bunbury's Diomed. The mare Eleanor, in 1801, won both the Oaks and the Derby. Diomed was exported in 1799, to America, and the present racing stock of that country, is almost entirely her progeny. The winner of the first St. Leger was the mare Allabaculia.

A. H.—We owe the flag plan of starting to Lord George Bentinck, better known on the turf as Lord George, and also—be it always remembered—"The Bentinck Fund" for the aid and maintenance of sick and poverty-stricken jockies and trainers.

A JOCKEY.—We really do not know who may be considered the first. Number Normine.—The Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV., was twenty-six years of age when he won the Derby of 1788, and about twenty-nine when he was "warned off" Newmarket Heath by the Jockey Club in consequence of his horse, Baronet, an outsider, winning the Ascot Oatlands. The Club afterwards made overtures to induce the Prince to return, and was contemptuously snubbed.

Kerry.—Nat Flatman resided at Newmarket, and was, by birth, a Yorkshireman.

DRAMATIC.

A. W. W.—Paula Lazarro was the name of a drama written by the late Mark Lemon. We do not know the date of its production.

ELLEN B.—Mr. G. B. Barrett died in America on Sept. 5th, 1860, aged 67.

was born in Exeter.

-Mr. and Mrs. Harvey were dancing in the pantomime, at Astley's

Theatre, in 1851.

Scribe.—Get it accepted first, and then procure the license.

Ernest.—Robert Brough was but thirty-two years old when he died. Consequently, he could have had no hand in the production you mention unless he wrote from the cradle in his early infancy.

unless he wrote from the cradle in his early intancy,
R. P.—The lines:—
Conscience lie still—more blood must yet be drained,
Crowns got by blood must be by blood maintained,"
are not Shakspeare's, but Cibber's.
B. R. B.—i. The Overland Route was written by Mr. Tom Taylor, and produced originally at the Haymarket Theatre, when the part of Dexter was played by Mr. Charles Mathews. 2. We are unable to reply.
W. C.—By Mrs. Grahame, known to the public as Miss Clara St. Casse.
Hoxronire.—Mr. Crauford's wife was Mrs. S. Lane's sister.
L. W.—Tyrone Power, when at the Adelphi Theatre, in 1838, received £96 per week.

per week.
J. A. Y.—The lady is single and, we believe, disengaged.
SAINT GRORGE.—Mr. Morris Barnett's drama Married Unmarried was

SAINT GRORGE.—Mr. Morns Barnett's drama Married Unmarried was produced in 1854.

Sydney Derring.—Phillip Van Artevelde, was not written by Mr. Tom Taylor, but by Mr. Henry Taylor.

M. V.—Knowles's play of William Tell was originally produced at Drury Lane Theatre, with Macready in the principal part, and Mrs. Bunn as Emma, in 1825.

A. Z.—An adaptation of Schiller's drama, Cabal and Love, was produced by Lewis, the M.P., better known as Monk Lewis. Several other English adaptations of this play have appeared since; but none, we think, of

adaptations of this play have appeared since; but none, we think, of recent date.

ALFRED CARDEW.—A burlesque called Robin Hood and Richard Cœur de Lion was brought out at the Lyceum in 1846, by Mrs. Keeley.

B. LETHIENLIER.—"The Old Playgoer," by Mr. William Robson, was published by Masters, London, 1846. It was devoted to the author's recollections of players of the past century.

J. B.—The lines were written by Wilson Croker, on Master Betty, the Infant Roscius, when he was twelve years old, and had appeared in the parts of Glenalvon and Tom Thumb.

ALFRED W. MARKLEY.—Mrs. Charles Young was born in England, at Bath, emigrated when very young with her mother—Mrs. Thompson, an actress—for Australia, where she made her first appearance, as a child of eight years. She returned to England in 1857, and made her first London appearance at Sadler's Wells Theatre, as Julia, in the Hunchback. She married in Australia.

MUSICAL.

G. J. H.—There is a dearth of tenor voices, and if you possess a good one, you need have no difficulty in obtaining a hearing. It is difficult to advise you, without knowing more of your circumstances, your mustcal acquirements, &c. If you were to write to Mr. George Mount, at the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, that gentleman would probably give you a hearing; or you might ask the opinion of the best qualified judge in your own neighbourhood. Even if your voice were of exceptionally fine quality, it must be some time before you could earn enough to maintain yourself in London. Write again, with fuller particulars.

Z. (Helpston).—Orfeo was played at Covent Garden about twelve years ago, with Madame Rosa Csillag in the title character. She was very successful; the opera was repeated several times, and the Queen had four photographs taken of Csillag, in the character of Orfeo. Csillag also played other parts with success. She is now teaching vocal music at Vienna.

played other parts with success. Sne is now teaching. Science Vienna.

George Beaumont.—Madame Persiani was born at Rome, in October, 1818, and made her first appearance before a London audience in 1837. She retired from the stage about 1849.

W. H.—Mr. Costa was musical director of the Philharmonic Society in 1846, and retired in 1855. His first sacred oratorio, Eli, was produced at the Birmingham Festival. Mr. Sims Reeves sang the tenor part throughout. The principal soprano part was written for Madam Clara Novello, but was sung by Madam Castellan.

Opera-Gorr.—Mathew Locke's Tempest was produced in 1673, at the theatre in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, by the son and widow of Sir William Davenant, with scenery and dancing.

YACHTING.

C. Moreland.—The Royal Western Yacht Club was founded in 1833. MISCELLANEOUS.

Brisus-The London Stereoscopic Company, Regent-street.

H. B.—A professional cricketer.

C. H., Worcester.-We have no present intention of supplying the vacancy. E. V. T., (Tees-side).—You are correct in your surmise. The gentleman who writes under the nom de flume of "The Tees Tickler," is the editor of a newspaper in "the north countree." There is, so far, classical warrant, for the "Tickler" tells that the name very frequently occurs in the Noctes Ambrosiana of Christopher North. Then again, Shakspeare's Shylock—"If you tickle us, do we not laugh?" We believe that a volume of the author's works is in preparation.

"OHN WILLIAMS.—A curious creature, said to have been caught in the "Wilds of Australia," apparently half man and half beast was exhibited at the Egyptian Hall some years ago, under the name of "What is it?" a question which was solved by one of the many visitors who, in a letter to the Times, asserted that he recognised in the cage of the exhibited object, an old acquaintance, named Hervio Nano alias Harvey Leech, made up with hair in imitation of a monster.

EDWARD BATES.—Consult the date of your print if it bears one. There were two engravers named Benoit Audran, both famous. One died in 1721, the other, nephew of the first, in 1772. This is all the help we can give for the identification of your French engraving, with the work of one

or the other.

FREDERICK WATSON. points out that "Haydon's Dictionary of Dates" states that Sir William Davenant, who died in 1658, "introduced a species of Opera in Lordon, in 1684." There are many similar blunders in this too much lauded and too little criticised work. The writer probably confounded the son, Dr. Davenant, with the father, Shakspeare's Godson. H.B. H.—The stage coach duty act was passed in 1785.

A.B.H.—The stage count duty act was passed in 1763.

Anabet, Lee.—Lord Cardigan was charged with unlawfully wounding Captain Harvey Tücket, in a duel, before the House of Peers, in 1841, and acquitted.

James Reece.—Alessandro Manzoni, the Italian poet and novelist, was born in Milan, in 1784.

Breeched.—Bottcher Ware took its name from its German discoverer, who introduced it, at first without the black or brown varnish and gilding, in 1704.

St. Quentin.—The Whinyard was a broad light-bladed sword.

THE ILLUSTRATED Syorting and Dramatic Achs.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1876.

At some time or another during the racing season the irrepressible welsher is bound to crop up, and this year it has been reserved until the back end to bring him even more prominently before the public, among which he reckons his victories by tens of thousands. No one who has read the correspondence which appeared in the Sportsman of last week can deny that the grievance is a real and substantial one, and a scandal which should no longer be permitted to tarnish the good repute of the Turf, if, indeed, that institution can be said to possess any claim to respectability whatsover in the eyes of a certain section of humanity. But because racing men, however unjustly, have a bad name conferred upon them, and are morally hung forthwith, that is no reason why an attempt should not be made to reform their community, and to remove the reproach attaching to many a good name through the base associations which drag it through the mire. It is curious, but nevertheless true, that your welsher is the type of Turf society adopted by outsiders in their contemplation of racing as a pursuit; and thus the men of standing and substance, who are really the salt of the earth, become mixed up and confounded with fellows of the baser sort; who carry on their nefarious games with such impudence and effrontery, and, we regret to add, with impunity. It is not so with those engaged in pursuits other than the Turf, when the community borrows its tone from its most respectable members, instead of taking colour from the questionable substratum which pervades all orders and degrees of men in their various departments, marked out by trades, professions, and other distinctions of society. We do not judge the Stock Exchange by the standard of its lowest tricksters and charlatans; neither is the medical profession regarded as a mere assemblage of impostors, because quackery occasionally meets with its due reward of detection and punishment. No one supposes for a moment that Warwick is more prolific of welshers than other localities on the racing circuit, or that Mr. Merry is not as anxious for order, comfort, and good management as any of his confreres. But a statement has gone forth, uncontradicted as yet, that the Clerk of the Course either could not or would not consent to a summary method of expulsion in the case of a notorious welsher, who appears to have openly defied all attempts to bring him to book. After detailing the "old, old story" of his grievance, the writer of the letter of complaint to the Sportsman goes on to say—" Finding expostulation useless, I went to Mr. Merry, the clerk of the course, who

said he could do nothing, but I should speak to the police. A policeman referred me to the superintendent, and the superintendent lent me the services of two 'thiefcatchers.' But all our efforts were of no avail, &c. . police told me all they wanted was a word from him (Mr. Merry), and then they would know what to do, but this they could not get." Now, here we have a perfectly clear, unvarnished statement, from which it seems plain that a sort of divided responsibility exists between managers and the police in their pay, and that neither party can be compelled to take action without the support of the other, which in some cases it might be good policy to withhold; but on the occasion referred to, the clearest possible case of gross swindling had been brought under the cognisance of the authorities without any remedy being forthcoming to abate the nuisance. We agree with the writer that "if Mr. Merry had done his duty as clerk of the course, he would have given instructions to the police to keep those men out of the enclosure," and that "he showed a neglect of duty in not acceding to the request at the commencement of the meeting, thereby saving the wretched public their monney for the rest of the week." Assuming the truth of the above statements, which, at any rate have received no public denial in the organ that gave them publicity, it is almost beyond conception that a clerk of the course should have been content to stand by and to see one of his customers openly robbed by another without interfering to prevent the recurrence at least of a similar offence, if he did not deem it imperative to punish the offender for the sake of his own reputation. Surely some explanation must be forthcoming for such extraordinary conduct; and we pause for a reply, merely observing that by such a course of action, in the eyes of outsiders, authorities place themselves on a level with the miscreants whose expulsion they should compass at any sacrifice. By another letter bearing upon the same subject, it appears that so much apathy (to use the mildest of terms) exists among providers of sport for the million, that a notorious "King of the welshers," who must be perfectly well known to all racegoers, carries on his nefarious game without molestation at all the principal meetings of the year, and is permitted (on payment of the usual charge) to set foot in enclosures where every chance abounds for finding victims. The welsher who makes tracks with his illgotten gains during or after the race on which his book (?) has been made, is bad enough, and eminently worthy of his fate should he fall into the hands of his pursuers; but what shall be said of the blatant bully, who scorns to seek safety in flight, and brazens out his disgrace by the aid of an unbounded impudence, and threats of showing fight if necessary? We had thought such disgraceful episodes were confined to the lower class of meetings, where the veriest canaille form the Ring; but it appears that gatherings of vaunted respectability are not tree from these pests, who have succeeded in establishing a greign of terror," only to be suppressed by the strongest possible measures. For an additional instance of the "mild for-bearance" of those in authority, we have only to point to the open and habitual disregard of orders promulgated to forbid the use of large umbrellas, clogs, colours, and other contrivances to attract the attention of "clients" to the whereabouts of their "patrons." The only remedy lies in some more effectual plan to be

adopted for dividing the sheep from the goats, and thus rendering it impossible for any but downright idiots to become the victims of welshers. If spirited lessees and enterprising managers will not submit to be mulcted of the price of admission to their enclosures paid by the long firm, members of Tattersalls must take matters into their own hands, and render the place which bears their name of better repute than at present. Regarding their laxity in forbearing to assert their rights, we can only wonder at the apathy and indifference which brooks a system of consorting with those who bring their reputation into dishonour, to say nothing of trading upon their good name, when opportunities offer. If the ruling powers are so utterly selfish and short-sighted as to disregard their interests by refusing to give peremptory orders for the exclusion of welshers from their rings, a method of abating this crying evil will be found in other quarters, and respectable and honourable bookmakers, failing to obtain redress at the hands of the proper authorities, will surely not be backward in taking matters into their own hands. Besides, it must be obvious that the demand of an extra payment for the privilege of transacting busi-ness in what is facetiously termed a select enclosure, made by clerks of courses and managers, is merely a delusion and a snare, if measures are not taken to carry out the letter of the undertaking, by a peremptory refusal to admit doubtful characters. But unless some remonstrance is made with the proper authorities, it is almost too much to expect entrepreneurs will turn away money from their gates, and the work of purification must commence among those who can have no desire to become associated in the welshing division. By their inaction welshing becomes virtually legitimised, inasmuch as we defy mere casuals to distinguish between the safe man and his counterfeit, as they stand shoulder to shoulder in the so-called "Tattersall's enclosure."

At the Tenby Steeplechases two capital day's sport were enjoyed. The attendance was a good one on both days, and the days large, and on the Tuesday began the Open Chase, which fell to Sammy, ridden by Mr. Roch, his owner. The Duke of fell to Sammy, ridden by Mr. Roch, his owner. The Duke of Montrose's useful galloway, Just in Time, was well at home in the succeeding Innkeepers' Plate, and although the odds laid on Bedford were landed easily in the Red Coat Plate, he was disqualified for not being ridden in proper hunting costume, and the stakes awarded to Mr. Cotton's Gambler, whose owner also steered the next winner, Lancaster, in the Maindiff Court Selling Visitors were not favoured with good weather on the second day, when Just in Time opened the proceedings by adding another galloway race to his long list of wins, and Sammy again showed his liking for the "banks" by coming to the fore for the Borough Members' Plate. Pembroke, with Hitchings up, took the Ladies' Plate, and, like Just in Time and Sammy, Lancaster won his second race at the meeting, which concluded with the Stewards' Plate Handicap, which Mr. Bowers, one of the prime movers in the meeting, succeeded in carrying off with Admiral, well ridden by Mr. Newman.

MONTHLY MUSICAL REVIEW.

(Continued.)

STANLEY LUCAS, WEBER AND Co., 84, New Bond-street, W., publish Professor Macfarren's last oratorio, *The Resurrection*, and have engraved in separate form the principal numbers of the work. have engraved in separate form the principal numbers of the work. Amongst so many masterly specimens of composition it becomes difficult to make selections; but we may point out as specially attractive to amateurs of good music the song (No. 7), "Let us have grace;" the soprano song (No. 11), "For this our heart is faint;" the tenor air (No. 15), "Now is our salvation nearer;" the soprano and contralto duet (No. 17), "In our season we shall reap;" and the beautiful trio (No. 30), for soprano, contralto, and tenor "The peace of God." These are compositions which should be in every library.—"There sits a bird on yonder tree," is a song, written by Barham, and composed by L. N. Parker, who has felicitously caught the spirit of the poetry. The melody who has felicitously caught the spirit of the poetry. The melody is graceful, and the accompaniment picturesque.—"In radiant loveliness" is a setting by the late Sterndale Bennett of an uninloveliness," is a setting by the late Sterndale Bennett of an uninteresting canzonet, by Montgomery. The music is full of the inventive fancy which was one of its lamented creator's attributes.—"In a distant land," is an English version of Taubert's song, "In der Fremde." Miss Constance Bache, with the exception of the one faulty rhyme, "silently" and "wond'ring eye," has shown great ability in fitting English words to the melody. The song is a delicious musical inspiration.—Miss Virginia Gabriel is the composer of the following six songs: "He will not come," words well written by Violet Fane;—music vocal if not original. "At Rest," words by Nina Cole, whose third quatrain is incomprehensible;—music worthy the words.—"Thus we met," ballad, written by Miss H. Power, who gives her readers to understand that she has been in heaven to meet a deceased friend. She says:—

"We met again, and in thy gentle eye
There shone the gleams of Immortality.
"I heard thy voice in tones of love divine,
And know that now for ever life is thine!
Thus we met;—it was in Heaven!"

These lines should be dedicated to Dr. Slade. The music con-These fines should be dedicated to Dr. State. The music contains some phrases which we have always admired.—"The Mountain Echo" is a well-written ballad by Miss H. Power, simply but effectively set by Miss Gabriel.—"Waves," words by George March, whose lines are above the average, but to whom may be suggested the substitution of the future tense for the past,

Then I cried, as the billows closed in on me, My uarling, I'm coming to rest with thee!

My uarling, I'm coming to rest with thee:
unless the song is supposed to be uttered by one of the "disembodied spirits," who improve the shining hours at spiritualistic seances. The music is in Miss V. Gabriel's best manner, and the song is likely to become popular. The time is erroneously marked which in future editions should be altered to 6-8.—"Hope-3-4, which in future editions should be aftered to 6-3.—"Hopeless," is a song by the same authors. The words are tolerable, the melody flowing and effective. The G natural in the 4th bar on page 2 should be G sharp. The B flat in the 2nd bar on page 4 should be G sharp. It is a pity that Miss Gabriel should write so much. Quality, rather than quantity, should be her aim.

HUTCHINGS AND ROMER, 9, Conduit-street. W., publish "Bell's across the snow," a Christmas song, written by Frances R. Havergal, to a theme by Gounod, The words are tastefully written, and are well fitted to the melody.--"Yule-tyde" cantata for the coming festive season, with solos, concerted pieces, glees, choruses, &c., adapted for performance by cultivated amateurs, as well as by choral societies. The words are partly taken from the works of Sir Walter Scott; the music party taken from the works of Sir Watter Scott; the music is composed by J. Morgan Bentley, who has not been content to write in common-place style; but has taken high ground in his choral and fugal writing. His work, although evidently intended for orchestral performance, is well arranged for the pianoforte; and its fertility of invention, and genial brightness of character, will render it a desirable acquisition.

ASHDOWN AND PARRY, Hanover-square, W. The "Second Album of Dance Music," issued by this firm contains ten dance tunes by Coote, Godfrey, Marriott, and other popular composers of dance music, is clearly printed in large type on good paper, and the price is one shilling! The tunes are excellent, and ary one of them is worth the cost of the whole—"La Maja," "Coralline," and "The Magic Harp" are three pianoforte pieces by Louis Diehl. The first-named is a highly effective Mauresque, with a possible production of the cost of the whole with a product of the cost of the whole with a product of the cost of the whole with a product of the cost of the whole with a product of the cost of the whole w with piquant rhythms, the second and third are brilliant show pieces. [All three are within the powers of average players, and in each case the fingering is carefully marked. The same may be said of the pianoforte fantasia "Snowdon," by Mr. Edwin M. Lott, who has constructed effective variations on the two Welsh airs "Jenny Jones" and "The Ash Grove." The melodies are clearly preserved amid all the surrounding embroidery of arpeggi and other forms of musical embellishment, and Mr. Lott has clearly preserved amid all the surrounding embroidery of arpeggiand other forms of musical embellishment, and Mr. Lott has shown much ingenuity in his treatment of the themes selected. "In the Highlands," by the same composer is a similar piece written on Scottish airs. "Auld Lang Syne" receives special attention, and is brilliantly illustrated, and the fantasia concludes merrily with "Kinloch of Kinloch."—Mr. Boyton Smith announces! "La Danse des Sauterelles" as a "Fantasy for the Pianoforte." Why not avoid this linguistic confusion by simply entitling his piece "The Grasshoppers' Dance?" There proves to be very little "fantasy! in the piece, which is quite as suggestive of sheep as of grasshoppers, unless of converted grasshoppers, dancing serious polkas à la Spurgeon.—Four new pianogestive of sheep as of grasshoppers unless of converted grasshoppers, dancing serious polkas à la Spurgeon.—Four new pianoforte solos by Mr. Sidney Smith are issued. "Il Trovatore" is a "fantaisie brillante sur l'opéra de Verdi," in which all the principal melodies of that well-known work are treated with more or less brilliancy, and are worked up into an effective résumé of the opera.—"Mose in Egitto" is a "grande" fantasia—at least it is so described; but we fail to perceive in what its grandeur consists, and we rather prefer Thalberg's treatment of the prayer "Dal tuo stella to soglio" to that by Mr. treatment of the prayer "Dal tuo stella to soglio" to that by Mr. Smith. He has evidently wished to attain a higher flight than usual, but his ambition has not been equalled by his powers, and this "grande" fantasia is not so acceptable as his less preand this "grande" fantasia is not so acceptable as his less pretentious and less-laboured writings. It is, nevertheless, well
worth the attention of amateur pianists, as it affords opportunities
for display of mechanical dexterity, and would probably be the
best fantasia in "Mos6," if Thalberg's fantasia had never
existed.—"Le Bivouac" is a "Morceau Militaire," spirited,
effective, and well-written. In the "Airs Ecossais," several
popular Scotch tunes are treated in Mr. Sidney Smith's wellknown manner; the familiar melodies being strongly emphasised,
and embellished with arpeggio passages. This kind of work is
not intrinsically valuable, nor really difficult, but in it Mr. Sidney
Smith is facile princeps. His arrangement of Scotch airs will
be acceptable to the large number of amateur pianists, who seek
for pieces which may enable them to make brilliant displays of
executive ability. executive ability.

DUNCAN DAVISON, AND Co., 244, Regent-street, W. "The Ship's in the Bay" is a "Chanson d'Adieu" (why not "A Farewell Song?") written by Arthur Matthison, who has no need to attach to his well-written lyrics the meretricious attractions of foreign nomenclature. The music by Mr. Wilford Morgan is melodious and pleasing; and the song, which is of limited compass, will be acceptable to tenors and baritones.—"I'll love her till I die," by the same composer, is a capital song, full of bright melody, well, though simply harmonised, and far above the average of modern ballads.

W. MORGAN, 18, Surrey-street, Strand, W.C. "Deidi il cor." is the clever arrangement of Handel's aria which was sung by Mr. Vernon Rigby at the Birmingham Festival. The melody is delicious, the accompaniment well arranged, and the song will be equally acceptable to amateur and professional vocalists.—"The Fisherman's Morning Song," composed by Wilford Morgan, is really charming. The melody is bright and original, the accompanies the following the melody is bright and original, the accompanies of the solution of t really charming. The melody is bright and original, the accompaniment is effective though facile, and the song deserves to become widely popular.—"Life is full of gladness," by the same four-part song which has already attracted the attention of choral societies in various parts of the kingdom. Mr. Wilford Morgan unquestionably possesses the gift of melody, and it is shown in this part song, which is the best we have seen since "All among the barley" was published. The technical skill of the composer has been attested by the Services composed by him for the Tample Church is the additional services in this delightful part song here. for the Temple Church, &c.; and in this delightful part-song he has enhanced the effect of a most taking melody by his masterly

LAMBORN COCK, 63, New Bond-street, W.—" In quictness and confidence," a duet for equal voices, by Louis N. Parker, is a masterly setting of a passage in Isaiah.

(Several other works are held over until the last Saturday of the month.)

OUÏ DIRE.

THE Christmas show of fat cattle in the Agricultural Hall this year marks a new epoch in the history of the Smithfield Club, that remarkable association which has now existed for 79 years, supported by the greatest landlords and the most practical farmers, breeders, and graziers in England. It was in 1790 that the plan of this club was started in the parlour of a butcher's shop in Bond-street. Francis, Duke of Bedford, was chairman, and the greatest of English agricultural authors, Arthur Young, was secretary. The first show was held, in 1799, at Wootton's Livery Stables in Dolphin-yard, Smithfield. For a space of 40 years the club remained true to the ancient monastic neighourhood of St. Bartholomew, shifting its quarters from Dolphin-yard successively to Dixon's Repository and Sadler's-yard in Barbican. The enterprise had, year by year, increased in magni-tude, till in 1839 it was necessary to seek roomier quarters. The Baker-street Bazaar, which had been built by the famous Colonel Maberly, after his quarrel with old Dick Tattersall, presented itself advantageously at this time. The colonel's idea had been itself advantageously at this time. The colonel's idea had been to eclipse the great horse auction at Hyde Park-corner; and it was from no lack of spirit in starting the venture that it failed miserably. Like many other clever people, who shine brightly enough in planuing and promoting, Colonel Maberly had no head for details. Mr. Boulnois, who had taken over the colonel's unfortunate speculation, with views somewhat different as to its future control, consented to give the Smithfield Club £300 for the gate-money of their cattle show, and a piece of corned beef to the stewards, judges, and honorary secretary as a consideration for the stewards, judges, and honorary secretary as a consideration for the privilege of selling a catalogue. In 1851, the agreement was renewed for five years at the increased figure of 5500 per annum, afterwards increased to 5700. But, meanwhile, the great increase in the number of live-stock exhibitors had caused them and their servants to grumble at the want of space, light, and ventilation while, at the same time, the exhibitors of agricultural implements were growing in importance. It was in 1858 that a committee was obtained to report on a better site. The club was then receiving a rental of \$800 from the implement makers, and there could be no doubt as to the necessity of finding more commodious premises. Finally, in 1859, the site on which the Agricultural Hall now stands was selected, and a company was formed, with the late Jonas Webb, the foremost representative breeder of his time, as chairman. The proposal on the part of this body of farmers and capitalists to give the Smithfield Club £1,000 a year for the admission-money at the doors was, by a majority of the members, accepted; but it afterwards met a strong opposition from the late Sir John Shelley and others of influence, who sup-ported his view that the public, and especially the aristocratic class, would never travel to a show at such a distance from the class, would never travel to a show at such a distance from the central points of town as the Liverpool-road. At an adjourned meeting, which was held on July 17, 1859, at the Freemasons' Tavern, both sides met in full force; and after a long speech by Sir John, condemning the whole scheme as hopelessly impracticable and mischievous, an amendment, settling the terms of agreement between the Smithfield Club and the Hall Company, was moved by Mr. Samuel Sidney, the present secretary, seconded by Professor Simonds, and carried by a large majority. The capital was immediately raised, and the first show was held at the usual period preceding Christmas in 1862, when upwards of 120,000 persons paid for entrance. On one of the days, indeed, there was an alarming rush; and the turnstiles were carried by storm, hundreds entering without payment. There has been no such accident since that time, nor, till last year, have there been such numbers. The largest total of live stock which the catalogues have ever shown was in 1864, when the entries were logues have ever shown was in 1864, when the entries were 540; and the smallest was last year, when, in consequence of the club declining to receive animals which had been shown at Birmingham and other places, the number fell to 306. The smallest number of visitors to the Cattle Show since it has been held at Islington was in 1873, during that terrible fog, to which so many fine beasts were sacrificed. The Hall Company starts this year, with a new lease, the club having agreed to cancel the old one, which had still seven years to run; and for a term of 21 years, the annual payment is to be £1,250, with 100 guineas to be given by the company in cups. While the number of cattle has from the first maintained a fair average, the shorthorn largely predominating over every other kind, the increase in the exhibition of agricultural implements and machinery in the last 14 years has been positively marvellous, affording at the same time a clear and most gratifying proof of the progress which is still maintained by modern husbandry. As a purely voluntary patriotic society which has done great things with a very small staff of paid officials, the Smithfield Club is certainly remarkable. The Hall Company, despite the gloomy predictions of the adverse party in 1859, has shared the success of the club since the relation of the two bodies was cemented in 1862; and, unlike many of the limited companies started in the same year, has always paid a good dividend.

THE Standard says, considering the theatrical history of the last few months it is not surprising that managers should hesitate to risk the productions of such new plays as those at present attainable. Failure after failure has disappeared from the boards, though frequently not before the actors have found opportunity to show that the blame is not theirs, and that if authors were forthcoming, full justice would be done to their creations. To make a list of these failures would be a tedious and disheartening business, for except Mr. Gilbert's Dan't Druce and Mr. Wills's Jane Shore, scarcely an original play which can by any stretch of

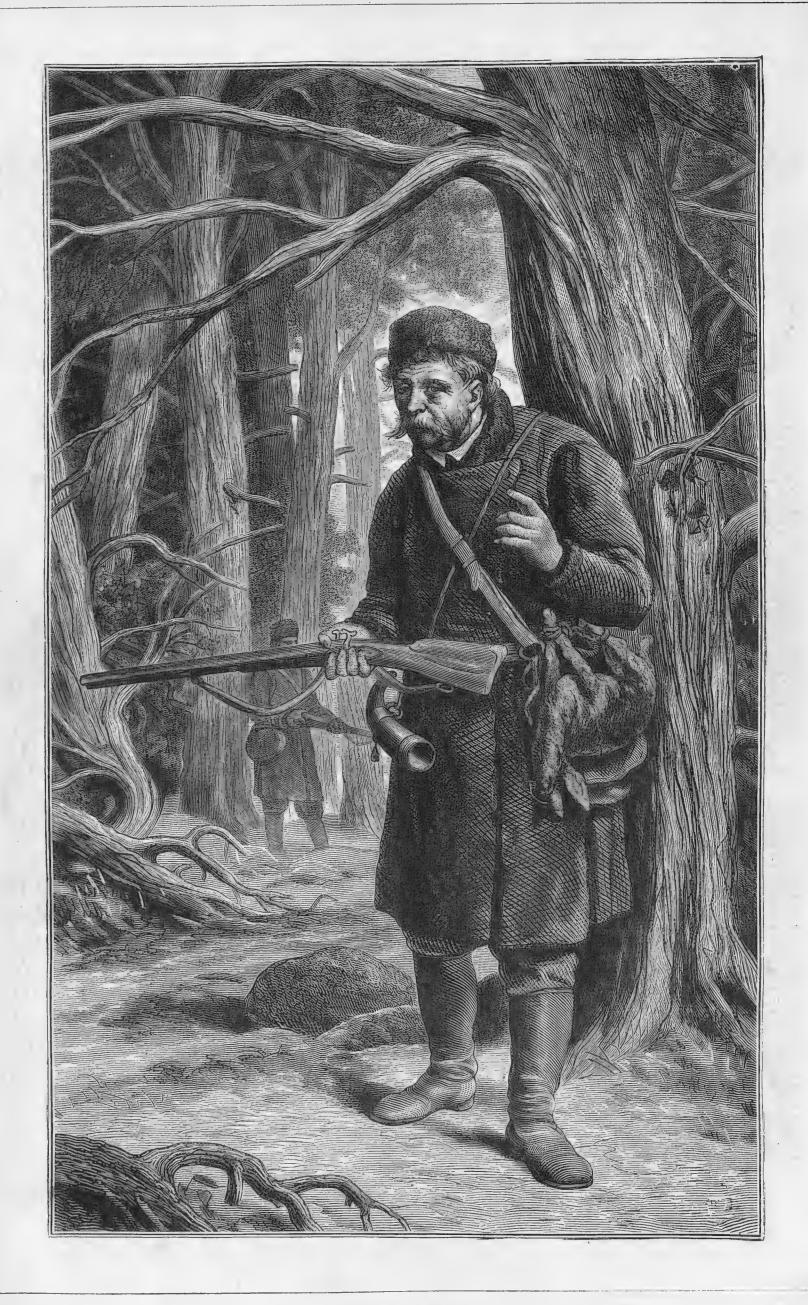
courtesy be termed even tolerably fair has been seen for a very long while; and it is easy to understand the despair with which managers look round and wonder what is to be done next. Theatrical management is a lottery in which there are few prizes and many blanks, and this is especially the case at the present time.

ACCORDING to the Investor's Guardian, "Ex-Lord Mayor Cotton has lost all chance of a baronetcy, but he has, neevrtheless, sent Her Majesty a copy of his poems, and obtained her royal promise to read them." "This (says another contemporary) is unmanly conduct of the late Lord Mayor, because he must know well enough that if Her Majesty had only guessed what her promise involved, she would gladly have given such a trifle as a baronetcy to be 'off the bargain.' The alleged reason for refusing Mr. Cotton a baronetcy is that he has not entertained either Her Majesty as a foreign protected. Majesty or a foreign potentate. Her Majesty, of course, has given up 'going out to dinner,' except, perhaps, at the cottage of one of her humble henchmen at Balmoral; but there are plenty of foreign potentates who would be only too glad to come over and partake of the Lord Mayor's hospitality 'for a consideration.' The King of Portugal, now, or the Bey of Tunis, or the Khan of Khiva, would, I am sure, willingly be guests of the City of London for say all expenses and Good down. That would be nothing to a man who thirsted for a handle to his name. It is, at any rate, the only sure means of obtaining a baronetcy. Mr. White, I believe, aspires to this honour, but how he intends to obtain it I don't know, unless he speculates upon the chance of becoming a Government contractor in the event of a war. cheaply win him the honour which Thomas Carlyle and Alfred-Tennyson declined.

"PELAGIOS," dealing with the last day of Trout Fishing in our old friend Bells, makes moan thereover, and says: "Any fisherman who meets another, returning rod in hand, from the river towards the end of September knows at once the cause of his miserable spirits. The season is over, and fly-fishing ended, so far as he is concerned, till the following spring. So he is in no more cheerful a mood than the London mute returning from a funeral before he has reached his favourite 'public.' And in truth every fly-fisher feels at the end of each trout-fishing season that he has lost a friend. We shall no more know the sunny smiles, the brilliant friend. We shall no more know the sunny smiles, the ordinant sallies, the liberal hand of 1876. Its trout-fishing season is dead and buried in the fair woodlands, by rustling brooks and circling brown-tinged rivers, and the trees have wept their rain of autumnal leaves over its grave, while the robin pipes shrilly beside it, as did the faithful bird by the cold form of the babes in beside it, as did the faithful bird by the cold form of the babes in the wood. Let us write for epitaph over it with Horatian hopefulness, Pulchrior evenit. It was dear while with us; we gratefully look back upon its gifts; but then we pierce the wintry fogs with the keen glance of hope. February will soon be here again." After describing the gloomy brethren of the rod whom he met by the river side, "Pelagios" adds:—
"Several more of the club were met on our way home, so ne like "Several more of the club were met on our way home, so ne like Hamlet: 'sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,' others of 'a green and yellow melancholy;' all moody and becomingly regretful. At length the head-keeper touches his hat, 'Sorry the season is over, gentlemen; have you heard of Bill's capture this morning?' We replied we had not heard whom the underling had captured, but we devoutly wished it had been Long Jem. 'No, sir, not a bit of it. It was the bishop!' 'The bishop,' we said, 'what, the bishop of the diocese?' 'To be sure; Bill actually took his lordship! He's a keen hand is Bill,' and the keeper rubbed his hands and chuckled, as he might have done at the performances of a favourite ferret. 'It was in this way. The bishop was staying up at the Hall with Mr. Ormsby. He told the performances of a favourite ferret. 'It was in this way. The bishop was staying up at the Hall with Mr. Ormsby. He told him last night that he had been a fisherman in old days, and should much like a turn at our celebrated stream before breakfast for a couple of hours to-day. Mr. Ormsby offered him me, but his lordship said he might have forgotten how to throw a fly, and should not like to shock me. So he went by himself this morning, and about half-past eight Bill was coming up hereabouts and sees a man in rusty black gaiters, and an old shooting coat, drawing out the fish like anything. 'May I ask who you be, sir?' says Bill. 'Oh yes,' says the fisher, 'I'm staying up at the hall.' Bill didn't think much of that; a good many poachers from Downton tell that story. 'What is your name, sir?' he asked again. 'Oh, it's all right,' said the gentleman, somewhat confused; 'I'm—I'm staying with Mr. Ormsby, and he gave me permission to fish here this morning.' 'I'm afraid I must have your name, sir.' 'Well,' at last said he, 'I am the bishop.' 'No, no,' says Bill, quite insulted, 'that won't go down. A likely story, that! As if a bishop would not have had two flunkeys at the least to carry his landing-net! I am should much like a turn at our celebrated stream before breakfast have had two flunkeys at the least to carry his landing-net! I am told to take all trespassers up to the magistrate; so come along! And Bill actually took his lordship's rod, and marched him up to the hall, where they passed along the gravel walk before the windows at the very time they were all breakfasting. You should hear Bill tell what Mr. Ormsby said to him; but the bishop behaved like a brick. He stood up for him, and said he was only doing his duty, and gave him half-a-sovereign for carrying his rod up and showing him the way home. Hah, hah, hah!" and the keeper roared with laughter, spite of his patron's presence.

In connection with the series of terrible gales which have done so much mischief all round the British coast during the past week, it is curious to note—as a contemporary does—that there week, it is curious to note—as a contemporary does—that there is in the Harleian Manuscripts a quaint old rhyme, unearthed about eleven years ago, which predicts sundry things to happen in those years when Christmas should fall on a Monday. The season was to be "full of winds, both loud and shrill," while in the following summer "High winds shall there be and strong, Full of tempests lasting long." "While battlesthey shall multiply, And great plenty of beasts shall die." We have had the first, and there are not wanting ugly signs of the second and third. The Conference about to open does so under auspices the reverse of favourable, "England," as M. Valbert quaintly puts it, "is manufacturing cartridges, Russia is mobilising six corps d'armée and pacific professions mingle with words of menace and defiance Absit omen! Let us hope, with our contemporary, that the old Absit omen! Let us hope, with our contrhymer will turn out to be an arrant cheat. Let us hope, with our contemporary, that the old

On November 18, at midnight, the eight hundredth anniversary of what is known as the "lopping rights" of the parishioners of Loughton, was celebrated with more than usual circumstance. Shortly before nine o'clock the commoners, verderers, and parishioners of the parish of Loughton assembled at the Robin Hood Hotel, High Beech, and partook of a venison supper, prepared from the buck which, in accordance with annual custom was hunted on Easter Monday last, and has been stall fed since. The chair was taken by Mr. John Chilton. The chairman complimented the company on their eight hundredth anniversary, and said that the right which had been exercised, viz., the right of lopping, would on that night be carried out in its entirety. The right of lopping was one that nothing save an Act of Parliament could curtail, and as that Act had not as yet been passed, he along with them would assert their right by proceeding to the lopping. Precisely at twelve o'clock a procession was formed, headed by Superintendent Todman and a squad of Metropolitan Police, mounted and on foot, with a body of the wood bailiffs of the Corporation, and went to Staples Hill, where torches were lighted, and the first bough was cut.

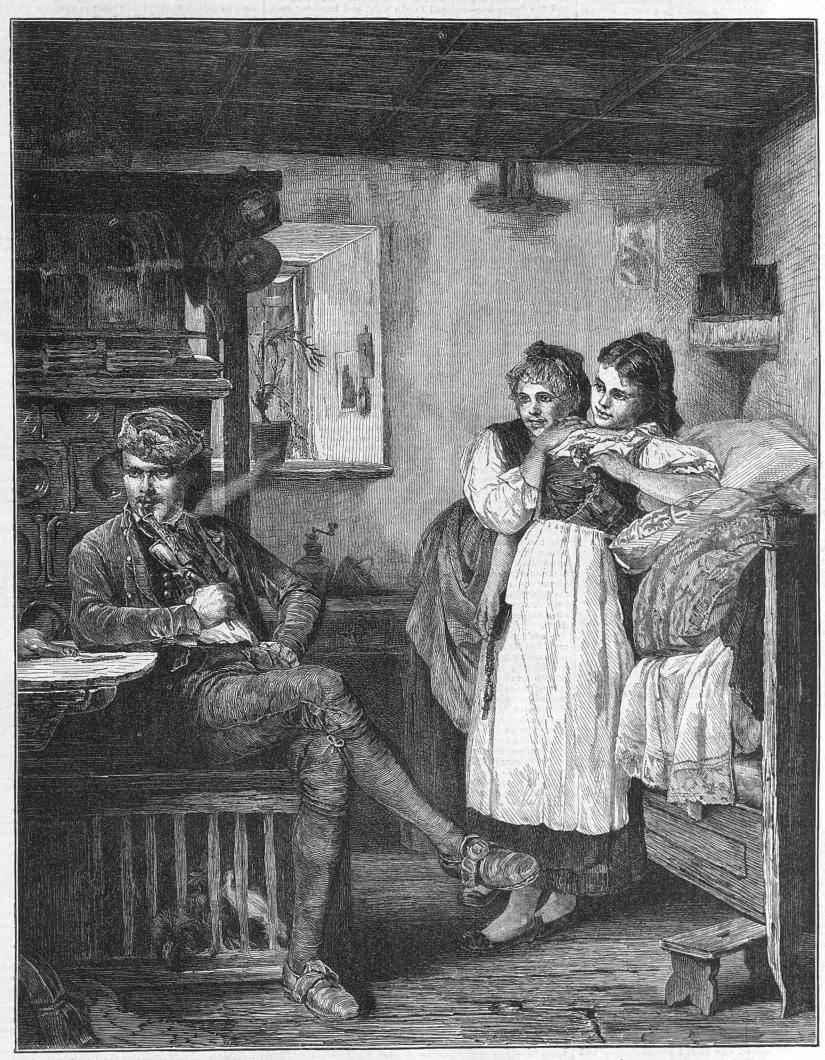


COURSING AMONG THE DURHAM PITMEN.

In the course of my periodical journeys for the eminent firm of Spick, Span, and Co., wholesale brush dealers, of Clerkenwell,* I have, as has been seen, a bye-day now and then, in which I accumulate experiences quite apart from business. Especially is this the case in the North of England, where I have been down a pit, made a speech at a parliamentary election, breakfasted with a newly-made Mayor on Corporation Sunday, and given evidence at a coroner's inquest. When, then, after doing a good stroke of

business at Darlington, I left that handsome Quaker settlement—in which almost every other man or woman seems to be a Pease, a Backhouse, or a Fry—on my way to Newcastle, I had occasion, I found, to stop at a large pit village not a hundred miles from Durham city. I will call the village Seedymoor. I know the vicar there, he is a connection of my wife's uncle's consin three times removed, and, as chairman of the School Board, he has to wrestle hard with the lead News formit the Bar. Obedies wrestle hard with the local Nonconformist, the Rev. Obadiah Tubthumper, also a member of the board, who looks upon the reading of the Bible in elementary schools as something too awful to calmly contemplate. My friend the vicar's church is a modest unpretending building in the early English style of architecture; but Obadiah's place of worship is a lively edifice in red and white brick, of the streaky bacon pattern, with entablatures recording the names of all the generous men who subscribed from upwards towards its erection. The land, by-the-by, was given by a local coal owner, whose pit runs underneath it; and what with a grant from the "connection," a penny reading now and then, a bazaar at Midsummer Day, and an occasional "whip-up," or a tea fight, the establishment flourishes, and is rather looked up to on the circuit as eligible and improving. on the circuit as eligible and improving.

It was Saturday night when I arrived at Seedymoor, and on



AN OBJECT OF INTEREST.

Sunday I sat under my very distant relative the vicar. He preached an excellent sermon, which I thought I had heard somewhere before, and towards the end of which I mentally calculated what business I might do at Newcastle, and whether I should put up at my old hostelry the "Turf," or try Tynemouth, where I could get a sniff of the ocean, and study the habits of the hardy mariners and slopmen of North Shields. I had not decided the latter point when the mellow and placement are of the ricer disprised the when the mellow and pleasant voice of the vicar dismissed the

* "Carrying the Bag." See ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS, NOV. 4.

We had a frugal but sufficient dinner, and over a glass of port afterwards I complimented my friend upon his discourse of the morning, and, in the fulness of my heart, spoke perhaps too flatteringly of the advantages and emoluments of the clerical life. I have a weakness that way, Whenever I meet with a gentleman in holy orders I seem to rebel against the fate that made me a mere trafficker in brushes.

"Ignatius," I said, reflectively, "I would wish matters had been otherwise with me than they are, but a perverse destiny has consigned me to trade." The vicar smiled faintly as he filled for himself a glass of water, and said, "What is your income?"

I hesitated for a moment, but at length I replied, "Possibly about six hundred a year, plus expenses."

The vicar gave a great gulp at the water, elevated his eyebrows,

and said:—
"Six hundred a year, plus expenses! I may have that when I am sixty, and, of course, I have the chance of becoming, before or after that age, a canon, an archdeacon, a dean, or a bishop. But at present my net income is one-third of yours, plus nothing."
"What!" I cried, "and with your large family!"
"My friend," he replied, "I should never have dared to possess

such a large family, but for my wife's private income. And my

case is that of thousands of other clergymen."

I said nothing, but cracked a few walnuts, and in the morning
I bade my friend the vicar adieu, and sought a "store" in the village, where I had a customer who sold a good many brushes, and who was a keen sportsman besides.

As I was signing a receipt he said to me, "There's a bit coursing near here to-day. Are you staying?"
"Well," I replied, "not exactly. But I could stay till the

evening train." "It's rather a rough meeting," he said, "but I've a couple

entered, and you'll see some sport."

entered, and you'll see some sport."

I agreed to my customer's proposal, and in a short time was on my way with him, accompanied by a couple of greyhounds in their gay jackets, held by a veritable "pit laddie"—a short, stumpy man, with heavy brow, a blue scar on his nose, no particular teeth, high cheekbones, a narrow chin finished off with a "ginger" tuft, and wearing round his neck the thick folds of a parti-coloured comforter. He was long in the body, short in the legs, and his optics were of the kind described by Ingoldsby in "Hamilton Tighe"—

"One eye was down to the hatchway cast, The other looked up to the truck on the mast."

He was as distinct a character in his way as the London coster-

He was as distinct a character in his way as the London coster-monger is in his, and a representative of his class.

A brief journey on a coal line in springless "coaches" that were once the only kind of railway carriages in use between Hartlepool and Sunderland, brought us to a pit in full work, where we alighted, in company with a small crowd of men and dogs, and walked between a row of huts, at the open doors of which the pit walked between a row of huts, at the open doors of which the pit wives and pit daughters stood regarding us curiously. They were mostly engaged in domestic duties, which consisted in adding more filth to the pools and surface drainage that trickled into the public way, and there mixed with the ash heaps where the pit children and the pigs, and domestic fowls foraged in common. Here and there a solitary pitman squatted on his "hunkers" in blissful idleness, or half a dozen pitmen assisted at a game of quoits, with nice "clay ends" chiefly composed of manure, and a couple of police constables, one of whom had his head bandaged couple of police constables, one of whom had his head bandaged up, were conveying four "Geordies," manacled in pairs, from the local lock-up to the Divisional Petty Sessions.

Leaving this characteristic scene, and crossing mounds and valleys of ashes and scoriæ, we got after awhile into a stubble field in which the day's business was to commence. Gathered together in a corner of this field by a stile, which looked upon a slight upland ending in a plantation, were a number of men, most of them holding greyhounds in various kinds of "garmenture." A sturdy yeoman on a grey horse was evidently the judge; but the crowd as a whole was a reproduction of my customer's friend, "Geordie"—a long-bodied, short-legged, keen-visaged lot, pitmen to the backbone.

After certain percessary preliminaries had been gone through

After certain necessary preliminaries had been gone through, and the beaters had been sent out, the slipper took charge of a couple of dogs, and followed at a respectful distance by the crowd, of which I was one, moved a hundred yards or so across the stabble. Suddenly the dogs strained in the leash as a hare just popped up under their noses. "Law," of course, was allowed, and puss had a fair distance before her eager pursuers were slipt. As they went off, like a shot from a catapult, the black took the lead, ran up, turned, and gave the fawn an opportunity. The fawn missed, the hare ran right back towards the crowd, and the ten couples or so of dogs in leash snapped and howled dismally as they strained to get at her. Sympathising as I always do with the hare, I was not displeased to see that she avoided the howling, noisy crowd, some of whom had their ash sticks ready, and popping through the stile, skirted the hedge by the upland, and gained the plantation, where the dogs lost sight of her.

It happened however, that at the moment of the escape,

rabbit was disturbed, and rushed into the jaws of death. The wretched coney was snapped up by one of the leashed dogs, and looking all skin and blood, was in the pocket of a pitman in

A white dog and a fawn were next slipped to a good fast A white dog and a fawn were next slipped to a good last hare in the next field, and here there was real sport. Dogs and hare were at times lost to the view of the crowd, and even of the judge; puss turned and doubled at a capital pace, and took a line across a high road, to reach which was a ditch and heavy rails, ending in a spinney. The field waited, the owners of the dogs whistled, and, at length, one dog came back, hampered with mud, and completely blown. It succumbed altogether when it reached its owner, and was rubbed down, clothed, and led off the field. The other dog, the fawn, seemed to have scent. off the field. The other dog, the fawn, seemed to have scent, and was seen racing over a hill a mile away. Its owner, a thorough "Geordie," went after it, and did not appear again. That dog could run a hare by himself!

After this several hares were killed, my customer scoring a

couple of victories. There were, however, the customary wrangles, and one of them caused a diversion. We were made aware of it by a sudden rush of the crowd to a particular point where a high road intersected the arable land. A dispute had occurred about a bet for a "dollar," between a very small pitman

occurred about a bet for a "dollar," between a very small pitman and a somewhat larger one. The judge had ruled the course as "undecided," but the larger pitman, who had lost, disouted the decision, and said with many expletives that his dog had won.

"Thou tell'st a lie!" said the small pitman.

"Thou'rt no mon to say it!" answered his antagonist.

"Pse a better mon nor thee!" was the rejoinder.

"Thou a better mon! Thou's meade o' nobbut sawdust!"

"Smash, mon! but an'll see that! Take off thy coat!"

Nothing loth, the two Geordies divested themselves of their upper garments, and at it they went, hammer and tongs; the crowd delighted and cheering each man on until both seemed to have had enough. Then, bruised and bleeding, they were taken in hand by their several supporters, and later on in the day they were walking together with their arms affectionately round each others thick comforters, and using those expressive terms of others thick comforters, and using those expressive terms of endearment common in pit districts as in some other spheres of life.

I pointed out this happy conclusion, as I thought, to my companion. He laughed, and said, "They'll fight again as soon as they get to the village; they always do."

When about a dozen hares had been killed, and we had walked, I should say as many miles, in a kind of irregular circle, one limb of which was bounded by a dene, we came to the residence of an under-viewer, who invited my companion and myself to refresh our wasted tissues.

I was not sorry for this diversion; for I had had coursing enough for the day. This little hospitable interlude, however, led to further experiences. The coursing, it appeared, was to be followed by a dinner at the "Black Diamond Hotel" in the adjacent village, chiefly "for the good of the house." The under-viewer drove us to the place of entertainment in his waggonette, and about four o'clock in the afternoon we sat down to what may be justly called a substantial repast. The quantity of food was only matched by the paucity of implements to eat it with; a wooden-handled, two-pronged weapon, much like a minature hay fork that had lost it curves, with a blunt knife that was notched and springy, combined to embarrass the unaccustomed handler of such appliances. Unfortunately too, I had a goose placed before me, and it was a tough one. I should say that that goose's near and stors were denized of Noah's Ark, or at least

had known something of the ancient Britons, or the Norman Conqueror, or Dutch William. At any rate, I was sufficiently exhausted by my labours at it that, at length, when a rosy butcher on my right hand passed his plate, I put on it the carcase of the goose, with one leg that had defied all my efforts to senverte it from the bedge, and I was pleased to note that he separate it from the body; and I was pleased to note that he

"Maw canny mon!" he said, "you're one o' the reet sort.
Aw don't loike dribbles! and a gyuse is but a wee bird after all!"
And he picked the carcase of that goose until his round, red

face shone with grease and happiness.

We were about finishing this substantial repast when there was a shouting and the sound of a scuffle outside. All left the table, and there, lo and behold! were the two pitmen—the small one and the larger one—stripped to the waist and knocking each other about as before; the crowd cheering them on. The affray, however, was terminated by the wife of the smaller pitman felling her husband's adversary with a coal-rake, after which all three went away, locked in each others' embraces.

I caught my train for Newcastle that evening, nicely, and I am glad to say that I found our new patent Multum-in-Parvo brush —which combines the properties of a shaving-brush, a tooth-brush, a hair-brush, a clothes-brush, a crumb-brush, a scrubbingbrush, and a hat-brush, with a stable-brush, and curry comb arrangement; and at the higher prices develops the whole system into a ramoneur or chimney-broom—is achieving a success which will render it indispensable to every well-regulated household.

THE TEES TICKLER.

MR. ANDREW O'ROURKE'S RAMBLINGS.

BROEKMAN'S CIRCUS.—DUKE'S THEATRE.

LONDON, IST DECEMBER, 1876.

ME DEAR MIKE, -With the nippin edges on the wind the theyaters here as elsewhere begin wakin up and taking down their shutters an clainin their doore-steps an the brasses; not that all the theayters are shut up in the summer, ony most of them. Well, over an over again I wandher how all the theayters in London are kept supplied with their thousands of people nightly. They say there are forty theayters in this city; counting all the people that have business or pleasure in them when they're all open there have business or pleasure in them when they're all open there must be on most nights in the winther at laist as many sowls in them as would do for the inwasion of the Black Say. Of course all of them are hardly ever open at the wan time, and them that are open aren't always nearly full. There's the lucky wans an the unlucky wans too, just like card-players. There's the wans that's too far Aest, an the wans that's too far West, an the wans that's too far North, an the wans that's too far N.N.E. ½ N. an W.N.W. an be N. and so on until you feel like a ship-wracked crew axin the way to a desolate island feel like a ship-wracked crew axin the way to a desolate island of some man that doesn't undherstand your language. There is, however, in London a theayter that isn't too far anny way, but isn't far enough. What they say about this one is that it's too near the middle; in this it resembles the North Pole, which is in the centre of the top half of the earth, an not very convayment for visithors, or even for its own inhabitants. When I came fust to this place they called it the Holborn, but now it goes by the name of the Juke's. Of late I have been hearing a great dale of a most wonderful preformance that's there of baists, an last night I tuck it into me head to dhrop in an have a look round.

The Juke's isn't ayther very big or a very small. It looks bright an pleasant with its purple sates an white-an-goold ceiling, with a big gaslight in the middle. I noticed wan thing in the boxes that's badly wanted in manny other theayters, a rim around the front cushion that you lain on. This would prevent operaglasses or smoothin-irons (supposin any dandy brought wan for the purpose of givin his cuffs a touch before lavin for a ball) from fallin down on the people in the pit an smashin a head or two. often am surprised the coroners don't get jobs from such acci-

I can't give you a betther iday of the dhrop-scene than be sayin it is like a washerwoman's fust sketch in ball blue on a

cotton red-an-brown pocket handkerchief.

While the band was playin an before the curtain went up I heard a man talkin in a furrin tongue, to the animals I dar say. sthruck me as bein no more than raisonable them animals should be spoken to in an unknown tongue, for they come from furrin parts, an ought to be addhress in the tongue they were brought up in. How can you expect an African elephan or an American monkey or an Italian lobster to understand English? Why, it's makin them out more than human to ax them to answer questions in languages they know nothing of. I know an African parrot that can swear in English, but then swearin in all languages comes aisy to man an baist.

aisy to man an baist.

The fust part of the performance was good value for the price of goin in, an although I've seen many sthrange things both here an elsewhere, I never saw anny thing so surprisin. There was a dinner table in the middle of the stage, an outcomes a lot of monkeys dhressed like human beins an sits down at it, an then outcomes a monkey dhressed like a waither, an brings them everything the manufactured patil you could force you were looking at the stage. thing that was wanted, until you could fancy you were lookin at the three-an-sixpenny table d'hote at the Holborn Restaurant through the wrong end of an opera glass, the monkeys at the dinner table were so well-mannered an the waither so polite, an they ate an dhrank just like people, the ony difference between them an Christians bein that they didn't talk scandal or abuse the waither; if they ony could be larned to take away their neigh-bours' characthers an to curse at the waithers they'd be as good as Christian human beins every bit.

The next thing was a clown by name Mr. A. Daniels that made a fiddle ask questions an answer them to. He also held the fiddle at his showldehr an played a tune on it without usin a bow, but be mains of the fingers of his left hand. He imitated cows an asses an a harmonium an bad fiddle playin an a Highland piper. Out of that fiddle he could get as much nearly as you'd hear in an orchestra an a fair, an all for the cost of wan man. As to his

jokes I'll say nothin—I'm ony a poor judge of sach.

Then a dog dhressed up like a fine lady danced to music on the hind legs an never wance put down the fore. Afther which there was a monkey dhressed up like a rope-dancer that did all kinds of twists an capers in a swing-swong. This was called a la Ohmy an no wonder—you couldn't help sayin a, La! Oh my! if you

saw it vourself.

Afther this came a beautiful white goat that got on the top of a castle built of bottles an stood and turned around on a plate. While I was lookin at him twistin around I couldn't help makin the remark to meself that if all goats an sheep an cows were ony larned this thrick they could act as their own roastin jack when their time came for that.

The promenade de Madame Pompadour was the walking about of dogs an monkeys. Wan of the monkeys held up the thrain of

The tight rope performance was be a monkey. He walked up and down a rope with a pole, just like anny rope dancer. He walked through a hoop, then up an down holdin out two little flats. Another small monkey came out an let on to play a fiddle an threw a summerset on the stage. All these surprisin doins of

monkeys makes me dhread that if ever they could come at a few iron-clads an the eighty-wan-ton gun it would be all over

There was poodles that skipped, three of them together, an walked on, fust the hind an then the fore-legs. They got up on a big white roller bigger than a dhrum an be walkin on it made it go from side to side of the stage. Wan got on a large ball and did the same. A dog held a hoop in his mouth for another to leap through, an wan kept leapin over the whip of the man that was showin them off, while another kept runnin in an out between

his feet, makin a kind of plat of every step he took.

There was an intherval of ten minnits between the fust and second part. In the audience was a great manny childhren, and when the dhrop scene was down they began walkin about the theaytre until it wouldn't take much to make me believe that the company behind the scenes had come in front for buns and nuts.

When the dhrop scene went up again the stage had been formed into a little circus-ring with earth at the edges an a carpet in the middle. We then saw a dog that rode on a pony. He fust stood up on his hind legs on the pony and then on his fore; he jumped over bars of wood an came down on the pony again; he went through hoops with tissue paper, and then jumped up on a thing like a school-desk, waited there until the pony came round once more, and then sprang on the pony's back. Then another pony was brought in, an a dog rode him bare-backed—the other time there was a pad on the back for the dog to stand on. The like of all this I never saw before, though I have seen clever dog-

actin an many larned pigs.

There was ponies that raced round the ring an performed to music; but, Mike, to tell you the thruth I have small likin for lookin at them balley dancin ponies an horses—I always feel sorrowful when I think of the ejucation they must have gone through, an I can't bear to see their poor shiverin limbs. There was an elephant that walked round the ring keepin time to music; he stood up on a tub, an lifted the near fore an off hind leg at the one time and then the off fore an near hind together; he bowed to the audience; an last he took a child's jewcawn an played on it as good as a well nourished child of six yeas. Then came a pony that was a very good skipper; but withal his cleverness I don't know, Mike, that he'd be much good as captain to wan of the lighthers between Glenary an Watherford—but that's ony me joke, for 'twas a skippin rope he used. A pony too found a pocket-handkerchief that was lost—I wish I had him when last me half dozen of linen shirts went wrong in the wash, an the washerwoman came a little elevated (not to use hard words) to ax me pardon, an to ax me to pay half her passage money to America where she said she'd marry a China man, set up a large business, join the teetotlers, turn over a new leaf, an live honest, which, owin to the want of a China man husband to do the clear starching the available to the control of she couldn't do here.

There was a monkey that rode a pony an the pony doin all he knew how to throw the monkey but the ould gentleman stuck on. There was monkeys dhressed like men an women in a carriage There was monkeys diressed like men an women in a carriage dhrawn be dogs, an when a wheel came off the carriage an there was a spill, didn't the craychures know as well what to do as Beau O'Connor himself and Billy Fahy the blacksmith rowled into wan. An last of all there was a hurrish of dogs an pistol shots an no lights that made all the childhren yell with delight at the fright of havin so much happiness at a time.

What the monkeys did with all their tails I don't know, but a

man that sat beside me said that they had all been sent a paper called the S. & D., an were to appear in the Christmas number—but I think he was ony havin his joke.

Your lovin Cousin

ANDY O'ROURKE. To Mr. Michael Crotty, South King St., Dublin.

On Wednesday week, 26 horses, consigned from Canada by Mr. Wright, of Montreal, were sold, by auction, at Aldridge's repository, St. Martin's-lane. There was an active competition among buyers, and the horses made figures varying from 30 to 50 guineas and upwards. Messrs. Freeman also sold 100 other

THE members of the West London Boxing Club recently gave their first display of the season at their head-quarters, the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane, Covent Garden. The room was filled with enthusiastic lovers of the science, and not a few of those faces recognised in connection with past Marquis of Queensberry's competitions were to be seen participating in the several bouts exhibited during the entertainment. From the fact of its being merely a display and not a competition, there was lacking that wonted excitement which usually characterises a prize-battle, but, taken on the whole, the sparring was exceptionally good. The wind-up of the gathering was a rare exhibition of skill between Bat Mullens and George Gregg, give and take being the order of things. Mr. Anderson, the captain of the club, acted as master of the ceremonies, and Mr. J. Donaldson as timekeeper, while Mr. Tyler looked after the comfort of the visitors in his usual urbane manner.

THE floor of a crowded theatre at Sacramento, in California, fell in on the 18th ult. Seven persons were killed and one hundred injured, many of the latter fatally. The American Mail brings the following particulars of this sad event. A benefit performance was being given in the Royal China Theatre, Jacksonstreet. More than 3,000 Chinese men and women, it was computed, were present. Only two or three white men attended. About twelve o'clock some matting in the gallery caught fire from the sparks of a cigar, and a panic ensued. Some 25 or 30 men the sparks of a cigar, and a panic ensued. Some 25 or 30 men from the lower part of the house reached the door first, but they were almost simultaneously overwhelmed from the crowd pouring down from the gallery. The doors, which were 6ft wide, were closed, but soon afterwards the massive door fell in, crushing several persons. The staircase, too, gave way. The noise and shrieks of the persons below increased the alarm of those within, and the terrified Chinese rushed like madmen to the entrance, trampling and crushing everybody in their way. The actors upon the stage, ignorant of the cause of the panic, continued the performance, and this had the effect of calming many of the audience who otherwise would have joined in the flight. The passage of who otherwise would nave joined in the hight. The passage of the dense crowds through the entrance, and the shrieks of the crushed and dying, attracted the attention of the police, who, having obtained assistance, stopped the panic-stricken crowd by freely striking the Chinese on the head with their batons, and the remainder inside, finding that the danger in the theatre was at an inder inside, finding that the ganger in the the third in —fell back and checked their frantic companions. When safety was reassured, 19 bodies were taken from beneath the door and the broken stairway, and several persons were found seriously injured. Death had in many instances been caused by suffocation, but several of the bodies bore marks of violence. The news of the panic having spread, a crowd of tuore than a thousand Chinese men and women lined Jackson-street, their lamentations mingling

with the agonising shrieks of the dying. LAMPLOUGH'S PYRETIC SALINE. — HAVE IT IN YOUR HOUSES, AND USE NO OTHER; this alone is the true antidote in Fevers, Eruptive Affections, Sea or Bilious Sickness, having peculiar and exclusive merits. For the protection of the public against fraudulent imitations, I have applied for and again obtained a perpetual injunction, with costs, against a defendant. Observe the GENUINE has my NAME and TRADE MARK on a BUFF-COLOURED I WRAPPER. — 113; Holborn-hill, London.—[ADVI.]

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This Special Private Express will return from Ramsgate on Wednesday the 27th instant, at 8.30 p.m., arriving in Town at 10.45 a.m. Fares: Return Tickets, 30s. An Allowance of 12s. 6d. made to visitors staying at the Granville Hotel, and Special Terms for Tickets for Families.

The Opening of the New MARBLE SKATING RINK will take place on the Evening of Friday the 22nd inst.

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